

INSIDE TODAY WORLD NEWS

VOLCANO ASH

From	To	Flight	Status	Remarks
1445 Sundsvall	H5366	JZ2176	Cancelled	
1500 Oslo	WF329		Cancelled	
1530 Copenhagen	SK439		Cancelled	
1550 Paris CDG	AF3223	UK3618	Cancelled	
1600 Umeå / Stockholm BMA	TF312		Cancelled	
1610 Stockholm ARN	SK182		Cancelled	
1620 Stockholm BMA	TF316		Cancelled	
1630 London LHR	SK515		Cancelled	
1710 Frankfurt	SK2633		Cancelled	
1720 Birmingham	CF919	SK6673	Cancelled	
1720 Manchester	CF905	SK6677	Cancelled	
1730 Amsterdam	KL1158	MH2008	Cancelled	
1730 Stockholm BMA	TF318		Cancelled	
1730 Lyon	CF923	SK6683	Cancelled	
1740 Stockholm ARN	SK164		Cancelled	
1740 Brussel	SK2318	TF2259	Cancelled	
1750 Stockholm BMA	TF306		Cancelled	
1750 Helsinki	AY878		Cancelled	
1750 Oslo	WF333		Cancelled	
1755 Aarhus	BA284		Cancelled	
1815 Bologna	H5326		Cancelled	
1815 Munich	LH2055	SK3683	Cancelled	
1815 Sundsvall	H5364	JZ2174	Cancelled	
1830 Sundsvall	CF978		Cancelled	
1840 Copenhagen	SK449		Cancelled	
1840 Helsinki	KF474		Cancelled	
1845 Umeå / Stockholm BMA	TF316		Cancelled	
1910 Stockholm ARN	SK166		Cancelled	
1930 Frankfurt	LH2045	SK619	Cancelled	
1945 Amsterdam	KL1160		Cancelled	
2000 Düsseldorf	LH2065	SK3647	Cancelled	
2010 Stockholm ARN	SK170		Cancelled	

allflights canceled at Landvetter Airport outside Gothenburg, Sweden, Thursday April 15, 2010. Landvetter Airport shut down operations Thursday afternoon. The cloud of ash from the Eyjafjallajökull volcano on Iceland has created chaos to air traffic in northern Europe.

Read more on Page A9

SPORTS NEWS

SEASON ENDS



Oklahoma City Thunder forward Kevin Durant goes up for a dunk in the third quarter of an NBA basketball game in Oklahoma City, Wednesday, April 14, 2010. Durant scored 31 points to finish the season as the youngest scoring champion in NBA history. Oklahoma City won 114-105.

Read more on Back Page

OIL

Price of a barrel of petroleum

US\$ 85.81

↓ 0.33



Dressed as Benjamin Franklin, Terry Shepard helps lead Tea Party Boise's Tax Day Rally on Thursday, April 15, 2010 to the steps of the state capitol in Boise, Idaho. Shepard, from Boise said, "Everybody has their different issues that their here for but with me it's the idea of liberty and that I want to see the next generation have the same freedoms that I've had in my life."

Associated Press

Tea party rally upbraids 'gangster government'

CALVIN WOODWARD

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Tea party protesters marked tax day Thursday with exhortations against "gangster government" and appeals from Republicans seeking their grass-roots clout in November elections, a prospect both tempting and troubling to those in the loose movement. Several thousand rallied in a plaza near the white House, capping a national protest tour launched in the dust of Nevada and finishing in the U.S. capital that inspires tea party discontent like no other place. Allied activists demonstrated from Maine to Hawaii in smaller groups, all joined in disdain for government spending and — on the April 15 federal tax filing

deadline — what they see as the Washington tax grab. People in the movement believe that government spending and influence should be limited. The movement's name is taken from the Boston Tea Party, a 1773 protest in which activists in the then-British colonies in America boarded ships and threw their cargo of English tea into Boston Harbor in a symbolic act of protest against taxes. The rally in Washington in brilliant sunshine was spirited but modest in size, lacking the star power of tea party favorite Sarah Palin, the 2008 Republican vice presidential candidate, who roused the masses at earlier stops of the Tea Party Express in its cross-country bus tour.

Continued on Next Page

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Imam Ahmad Afzali, who pleaded guilty to lying to the FBI, speaks to reporters outside Brooklyn federal court after his sentencing, Thursday, April 15, 2010 in New York. The Afghanistan-born imam linked to the suspects in an aborted suicide bomb plot against New York City subway stations faces up to six months in prison at a sentencing in Brooklyn.

Associated Press

No time behind bars for Imam in NYC subway-plot

COLLEEN LONG

Associated Press Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — An Afghanistan-born imam who pleaded guilty to lying to the FBI during the investigation into a suicide bomb plot against New York City subway stations will not go to prison but must leave the country within 90 days, a judge ruled Thursday.

Ahmad Afzali was sentenced to time served: four days from Sept. 20 to Sept. 24. He faced up to six months behind bars after pleading guilty last month in federal court in Brooklyn.

Continued on Page 5

GANGSTER GOVERNMENT

Continued from Front Page
Republican Rep. Michele Bachmann won roars of affirmation as she accused President Barack Obama and congressional Democrats of trying to take over health care, energy, financial services and other broad swaths of the economy.

“We’re on to this gangster government,” she declared. “I say it’s time for these little piggies to go home.”

She appealed directly for tea partiers to swing behind “constitutional conservatives” in congressional campaigns, just as they contributed to Scott Brown’s upset in the Massachusetts Senate race in an early test of their potency. “I am the No. 1 target for one more extremist group to defeat this November,” she said. “We need to have your help for candidates like me. We need you to take out some of these bad guys.”

Brown won the seat that had been held by the late Sen. Edward Kennedy, a Democrat, for decades.

Although Republicans are ideological allies of many tea partiers — and Republican operatives are involved in

some of the organizations — they are also part of the establishment that many in the movement want to upend. No members of the Republican congressional leadership were featured at the capital rally.

Obama, speaking Thursday night at a Democratic fundraiser in Miami, Florida, told supporters he is amused by the protesters’ complaints about taxes because, contrary to their claims, he has cut taxes. “You would think they’d be saying thank you,” the president said.

In the Midwestern state of Wisconsin, a half dozen tea party groups from around the state said they would boycott Thursday’s rally in Madison because former Republican Gov. Tommy Thompson was among the speakers.

“We do feel it’s important that people know this is not who we would ever align ourselves with,” said Kirsten Lombard, organizer of the Madison-based tea party group. “That is potentially damaging to our reputation.” Tim Dake, organizer of the Milwaukee-based GrandSons of Liberty, said: “Tommy is representative of the old boy network way of doing things.”



With the Capitol in the background, former House Majority Leader Dick Armey addresses a Tea Party rally at Freedom Plaza in Washington, Thursday, April 15, 2010.

Associated Press

A similar sentiment was seen on a sign carried by a tea party member in Washington: “Reelect No One.”

Even so, anger at the capital rally was directly firmly at Obama and Democratic congressional leaders. The crowd chanted, “There’s a communist in the White House” at the urging of the ukelele-playing Victoria Jackson, a former television actress.

The slogans on signs and T-shirts were biting, sometimes raw: “We Want Regime Change,” “Save a Seal, Club a Liberal,” “Down with the Gov’t Takeover,” “End the Fed” and “Waterboard Bernanke.” Some American flags waved upside down in the breeze.

The tax code was the villain of the day. “We have got to take the country back by taking back the money they take from

us,” Jim Tomasik of Fairfax Nation told the crowd.

Lost in the rhetoric was that taxes have gone down under Obama. Congress has cut individuals’ federal taxes for this year by about \$173 billion, leaving Americans with a lighter load despite nearly \$29 billion in increases by states. Obama plans to increase taxes on the wealthy to help pay for his health care overhaul and other programs. □

Obama orders a review of troubled coal mines

By SAM HANANEL

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama on Thursday ordered a sweeping review of coal mines with poor safety records and called on federal officials to strengthen laws “so riddled with loopholes that they allow unsafe conditions to continue.”

Obama spoke after receiving a preliminary report on last week’s deadly mine explosion in West Virginia that suggests the blast may have been caused by a preventable buildup of methane gas mixing with coal dust.

The report from Labor Secretary Hilda Solis and mine safety officials cautioned that the specific cause of the blast at the Upper Big Branch mine where 29 workers died is still being determined. But it raised serious concerns about a major spike in safety violations at the mine owned

by Massey Energy Co.

The report says the rate of serious violations in 2009 that required mine workers to leave while immediate repairs were made was nearly 19 times the national rate.

“In short, this was a mine with a significant history of safety issues, a mine operated by a company with a history of violations, and a mine and company that (the Mine Safety and Health Administration) was watching closely,” the report said.

Obama said the report showed there are far too many mines where safety is inadequate. He directed Solis to work closely with Congress to strengthen existing laws and eliminate loopholes that allow mines to evade more serious enforcement through “endless litigation.”

“We need to take a hard look at our own practices and our

own procedures,” Obama told reporters in the Rose Garden. While Obama conceded the government was partly at fault for the disaster, he laid most of the blame for the latest accident on the mine’s owner.

“Safety violators like Massey have still been able to find ways to put their bottom line before the safety of their workers — filing endless appeals instead of paying fines and fixing safety problems,” Obama said.

Massey Energy issued a statement calling Obama’s remarks “regrettable” and defended its safety record.

“Massey believes in safety, accountability and responsibility,” the statement said. “We seek the truth in the ongoing investigations and are cooperating with federal and state agencies to determine the cause of the tragic accident at Upper Big Branch Mine.”

The statement added,



President Barack Obama stands in the Rose Garden of the White House in Washington, Thursday, April 15, 2010, with, from left, Mine Safety and Health Administrator Kevin Stricklin; Labor Secretary Hilda Solis and Assistant Secretary of Labor for Mine Safety and Health Joe Main, to speak about mine safety.

Associated Press

“Unfortunately, some are rushing to judgment for political gain or to avoid blame.”

Under the current system, mining companies can file lengthy appeals that last months or years, overwhelming government officials and

delaying a finding of a pattern of violations that would lead to tougher enforcement.

Mine companies have been appealing more violations since new safety laws went into effect following the 2006 Sago Mine disaster that killed 12 workers. □

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Immigration agents raid van shuttle businesses

BOB CHRISTIE

JACQUES BILLEAUD

Associated Press Writers

PHOENIX (AP) — Federal agents arrested nearly 50 shuttle operators and smugglers Thursday accused of using vans to transport thousands of illegal immigrants from the Mexican border to Phoenix in what was billed as one of the government's largest-ever human smuggling busts.

Investigators said the operators of four shuttle services in Tucson and a fifth in Phoenix created their businesses solely to help immigrant smugglers move their customers to Phoenix under a veil of legitimacy. The shuttle operators are accused of giving illegal immigrants fraudulent receipts to make the trips look legitimate and coaching them on what to say if the vans were pulled over by police.

"They are in knee-deep. They know exactly what's going on," said John Morton, assistant secretary of Homeland Security for U.S. Customs and Immigration Enforcement.

Arrests were made in Phoenix, Tucson and two other Arizona towns along the border, Nogales and Rio Rico. Investigators also made arrests in Tennessee, and Mexican authorities detained people in the border state of Sonora. In all, 47 people were in custody, including the leaders of three smuggling operations.

More than 800 agents from nine law enforcement agencies were involved in the bust. Dozens of agents in Phoenix — some wearing black hoods over their faces — swarmed a shuttle business early Thursday in a strip mall in a

heavily Latino neighborhood.

No one answered phone calls at two of the accused shuttle businesses, Sergio's Shuttle in Phoenix and Saguaro Roadrunner Shuttles in Tucson. There were no Tucson phone listings for the other three accused shuttle services. U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement touted the bust as the largest human smuggling case in the agency's seven-year history.

The raids occurred amid a heated debate over immigration in Arizona, the busiest illegal gateway into the United States for several years.

Arizona is on the verge of approving a sweeping anti-immigration law that would make it a crime under state law to be in the country illegally while requiring local police to question people about their immigration status if there is reason to suspect they are here illegally.

Jennifer Allen, director of the Border Action Network, a Tucson-based immigrant rights group, said the show of force by federal agents will ultimately hurt the cooperation they get from immigrant communities because residents will be less inclined to call authorities when they witness crimes.

"If communities are afraid to call the police to let them know about criminal activity, criminal activity is going to go right to those neighborhoods," Allen said.

Morton said investigators gathered evidence that will show the shuttle operators knew they were moving illegal immigrants, despite the claims of many other shuttle operators in the past that they

Federal immigration agents stand outside Sergio's Shuttle Thursday, April 15, 2010 in Phoenix. The van shuttle services offers transportation from northern Mexico to cities in Arizona, New Mexico, California, Nevada, Oregon and Washington. Agents raided van shuttle operators in Arizona Thursday in a massive investigation into smuggling of illegal immigrants.

Associated Press

were performing a legitimate service.

"It's a calculated farce," Morton said of the five shuttle services.

Investigators say smugglers would guide immigrants from the Mexican border 65 miles (105 kilometers) north to Tucson so that they could walk around Border Patrol checkpoints. Once in Tucson, the immigrants would get into shuttle vans would take them to Phoenix via Interstate 10, a route that is patrolled by police but doesn't have checkpoints. Immigration agents said the five shuttle businesses didn't perform legitimate transportation services, such as bringing customers to airports.

"They didn't advertise at all, because they didn't need to, they had a built-in clientele," said Matthew Allen, the chief of investigations for U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement in Arizona.

Forty-five percent of all immigrant arrests by U.S. Customs and Border Protection are made in Arizona, and smugglers use Phoenix as a hub for moving illegal immigrants across the country. □



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RNC chairman: GOP wants to help black community



Michael Steele, Chairman of the Republican National Committee, speaks at the National Action Network Convention Wednesday, April 14, 2010, in New York.

Associated Press

By BETH FOUHY

Associated Press Writer

NEW YORK — Michael Steele, the Republican National Committee's first black chairman, told an audience that his party wants to help the black community but they need to do a better job of depending on themselves and not the government to create opportunities.

Steele received a warm welcome from hundreds of black activists at the annual meeting of the National Action Network, an organization founded by the Rev. Al Sharpton, a noted civil rights activist and former Democratic presidential candidate. Steele has come under fire from some Republicans after saying he is held to a different standard because he is black. He is also battling accusations that he has allowed RNC money to be misspent.

Polls continue to show that most black voters favor the Democratic Party and approve of President Barack Obama, the nation's first black president.

The audience reacted somewhat skeptically when Steele invoked Thurgood Marshall, the first black Supreme Court justice. Marshall once said that while people need to pull themselves up by their bootstraps, a teacher or religious

figure probably "bent down and helped us pick up our boots."

Steele called that a Republican message.

"The Republican National Committee wants to bend down and help," he said, drawing cries of "How?" and "Not the Tea Party!" — the largely white, antitax movement that Steele has tried to woo into the GOP fold.

Steele honored other civil rights leaders like Harriet Tubman and the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. and invoked slavery to encourage blacks to own their own businesses.

"I want to own, I don't want to be owned," he said to applause.

Steele acknowledged that blacks still trail whites in education and employment opportunities but urged the audience to apply business- and community-oriented solutions to solve those problems. He said depending on government stifled black progress.

"No child should be imprisoned in a failing government school," Steele said, urging activists to support charter schools and other innovations. He also criticized the federal stimulus program, saying he'd rather see stimulus funds go to a small business owner in Harlem than to a government agency. □

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SUBWAY PLOT

Continued from Front Page

The imam said he had wanted to help authorities in the investigation of the threat but lied under grilling by the FBI about his phone conversations with admitted al-Qaida associate Najibullah Zazi. He said he never told Zazi that authorities were investigating him, but he did.

"I take full responsibility for my actions," Afzali said in an emotional statement to Judge Frederic Block.

"Honest to God, it was never my intention to help those idiots for what they did in the name of Islam," he said, referring to the terrorist suspects. He said he is going to spend as much time as possible with his wife, children and ailing parents before leaving. He does not expect to return to Afghanistan, where he left as a child with his family, but he is not sure where he will go.

"I'm going to start shopping around," he said outside court. "I'm sure some good country is going to host me."

If Afzali does not leave the country within 90 days, he will be deported to Afghanistan. Judge Block noted he is not allowed to return without special permission from the U.S. government, and if he does, he'll face steep punishment.

Authorities sought help last fall from the imam, a previously reliable police source, as they scrambled to thwart the plot by Zazi, an Afghan immigrant, who is the case's principal suspect.

Zazi admitted that he tested bomb-making materials in a Denver suburb before traveling by car to New York intending to attack the subway system to avenge U.S. military involvement in Afghanistan.

Two other men suspected of direct roles in the plot, Adis Medunjanin and Zarein Ahmedzay, have pleaded not guilty to charges they sought to join Zazi in what prosecutors described as "three coordinated suicide bombing attacks" on Manhattan subway lines. The alleged attacks were timed for days after the eighth anniversary of the Sept. 11 terrorism. The plotters hoped to detonate bombs on trains at two of the city's biggest subway stations: Times Square and Grand Central Terminal,

according to two officials. The officials spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss details of the investigation.

Prosecutors say the attacks were modeled after the July 2005 bombings on the London transit system. Four suicide bombers killed 52 people and themselves in an attack on three subway trains and a bus in London.

The alleged New York plot was disrupted in early September when police stopped Zazi's

car as it entered New York.

Another suspect was recently arrested in Pakistan, law enforcement officials said Monday. □

Imam Ahmad Afzali, who pleaded guilty to lying to the FBI, arrives at Brooklyn federal court for his sentencing, Thursday, April 15, 2010 in New York. The Afghanistan-born imam linked to the suspects in an aborted suicide bomb plot against New York City subway stations faces up to six months in prison at a sentencing in Brooklyn.

Associated Press



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Cuban academic says corruption island's big threat

PAUL HAVEN
Associated Press Writer
 HAVANA (AP) — Corruption at the highest levels of government — not the meddling of a small band of dissidents — is the greatest threat to Cuba's communist system, a leading academic said in a highly unusual opinion posted Thursday on a state Web site.

The article by Esteban Morales — a historian who has written extensively on race and relations with the United States — crossed a number of red lines in tightly controlled Cuba, including openly discussing corruption rumors surrounding the dismissal of a top government aviation official who had fought alongside Ernesto “Che” Guevara and the Castros in the 1950s. Morales said some top Cuban officials are preparing to divide the spoils if Cuba's political system disintegrates, like the shadowy oligarchs that emerged from the collapse of the Soviet Union in the 1990s.

“In reality, corruption is much more dangerous than so-called internal dissent,” Morales wrote in the piece, which appeared on the Web site of the state National Artists and Writers Union

of Cuba. “The latter is isolated ... but corruption is truly counterrevolutionary because it comes from within the government and the state apparatus, which are the ones that really control the country's resources.”

Members of the artists union have been surprisingly critical of the government in the past, but often with little effect. Criticism can also appear in government newspapers, but rarely on such hot-button issues as corruption among senior officials.

Morales is a prominent intellectual who only Monday appeared on a state television program defending the government on another topic. The frank assessment on the Web site went far further than what is normally tolerated.

Morales never singled out Fidel or Raul Castro for blame, but he said cronyism is rampant in the system that has developed 51 years after their revolution won power and said some officials are waiting for a chance to grab the country's resources.

“It has become evident that there are people in government and state positions who are preparing a financial

assault for when the revolution falls,” Morales wrote. “Others likely have everything ready to produce the transfer of state property into private hands, like what happened in the former Soviet Union.”

Morales brought up the abrupt March 9 firing of veteran revolutionary Rogelio Acevedo, who had overseen the country's airlines and airports since the 1980s. The government gave no reason for his dismissal, but the island has been awash with speculation that he has been placed under house arrest for corruption.

Exile Web sites have reported that a large amount of cash was found hidden at Acevedo's house and that he is suspected of operating a private airline, among other things.

The government has not commented on the allegations.

“There must be some truth to these reports, because this is a small country where everyone knows each other,” Morales wrote of the speculation over Acevedo. He said the government owed people a fuller account because the same sort of corruption is happening in other state-run institutions.

“Whether it be to vindicate or condemn Acevedo, the people must be told what happened,” he said.

While complaints of low-level corruption are not uncommon in state media, allegations of wide-scale, top-level malfeasance are very unusual and the fall of party officials has usually been seen as an anomaly rather than a symptom of broader rot.

When Foreign Minister Felipe Perez Roque and Vice President Carlos Lager were dismissed last year, Fidel Castro wrote that “the honey of power ... awoke in them ambitions that led to an undignified role.”

Officials gave few public details of what they had done wrong, though Communist Party members said they were shown a video showing both making disparaging comments about the government and Miami journalist Maria Elvira Salazar released photos showing them partying with a Spanish business representative.

Morales appeared to refer to that case Thursday, when he complained of “favoritism, cronyism, certain acts of corruption” that led to information being passed to Spanish intelligence.



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	daily:				
	matinee:	12:00	2:00	late show: 11:00	
PG	THE LAST SONG				NEW
	daily:		6:00	8:30	
	matinee:	1:00	3:30	late show: 11:00	
PG-13	CLASH OF THE TITANS				3D
	daily:		6:00	8:30	
	matinee:	1:00	3:30	late show: 11:15	
PG-13	THE BOUNTY HUNTER				
	daily:		4:00	6:30	
	matinee:	1:30		late show: 11:45	
PG-13	WHY DID I GET MARRIED TOO				
	daily:		4:00	6:45	
	matinee:	1:30		late show: 11:45	
PG	ALICE IN WONDERLAND				3D
	daily:		5:30	8:15	
	matinee:	12:30	3:00	late show: 11:00	
AT PASEO HERENCIA					
R	REPO MEN				
	daily:		6:00	8:30	
	matinee:	12:45	3:30	late show: 11:15	
R	COP OUT				
	daily:		6:15	9:00	
	matinee:	1:00	3:45	late show: 11:30	
PG	HOW TO TRAIN YOUR DRAGON				3D
	daily:		4:15	6:30	
	matinee:	1:45		late show: 11:00	
PG-13	OUR FAMILY WEDDING				
	daily:		5:30	7:45	
	matinee:	12:45	3:00	late show: 12:00	
PG	DIARY OF A WIMPY KID				
	daily:				
	matinee:	12:30	2:45	late show:	
R	GREEN ZONE				
	daily:		4:00	6:30	
	matinee:	1:30		late show: 12:00	
PG-13	DATE NIGHT				
	daily:		5:00	7:30	
	matinee:			late show: 11:45	



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Kyrgyzstan's deposed president flies to Kazakhstan

PETER LEONARD
Associated Press Writer

OSH, Kyrgyzstan (AP) — The deposed president of Kyrgyzstan left the country Thursday for neighboring Kazakhstan, allaying fears of a civil war in the Central Asian nation, which hosts a key U.S. military base supporting the war in Afghanistan.

The presidents of the United States, Russia and Kazakhstan helped arrange for Kyrgyz President Kurmanbek Bakiyev to leave the country, Kazakhstan said in its role as the rotating chair of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe. It called Bakiyev's move "an important step toward ... the prevention of a civil war in Kyrgyzstan."

Kyrgyzstan's provisional leaders said Bakiyev had signed a formal letter of resignation.

Witnesses said Bakiyev flew out from the southern city of Jalal-Abad in a military transport aircraft. The Kremlin said later that the Russian Defense Ministry arranged the flight.

Bakiyev's departure followed the provisional government's warning that he should leave quickly or face trial.

"He had to leave the country because he was afraid of

people's justice," deputy head of the new government, Omurbek Tekebayev, told The Associated Press.

Bakiyev was driven from the capital, Bishkek, on April 7 after police opened fire on protesters, who then stormed government buildings. At least 83 people died in the violence.

He fled to Kyrgyzstan's south, his clan power base, and began to rally support, prompting fears that the impoverished country might split into two. But his efforts suffered a severe blow early Thursday when he tried to speak to a rally in Osh, the region's biggest city. Within a few moments of his taking the stage, gunfire split the air and he was hustled into a car and driven away.

Witnesses said the shots came from his bodyguards who may have been frightened by a group of Bakiyev opponents approaching the rally.

Although there were no reports of injuries, the incident was a humiliating setback to Bakiyev's effort to claim he is still the legitimate president.

Bakiyev had said earlier he would be willing to resign if security guarantees were given to him and close relatives. The interim authorities offered him such guarantees but refused them for his family.

Bakiyev's opponents have blamed him and his family for last week's violence, as well as for rampant corruption and other abuses.

Another member of the interim government in Bishkek, Tobchubek Turgunaliyev, said Bakiyev was accompanied on the flight to Kazakhstan only by his wife and two small children. Turgunaliyev told the AP that Bakiyev's former defense minister has been arrested.

An operation is under way in the south to arrest Bakiyev's brothers, one of whom, Zhanybek, the presidential guards chief, has been accused by the opposition of issuing the order to fire at protesters in Bishkek.

Another brother of the ousted president, Kamnybek, speaking later from their home village of Teyit, told the AP that "everything is quiet" there. He said the former defense minister had voluntarily turned himself in to the authorities to avoid bloodshed.

Bakiyev spoke late Wednesday by telephone with Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin. Putin's office didn't release any details of the conversation, but he had earlier offered strong backing to Bakiyev's foes.

Bakiyev's departure raised



Zhanybek Bakiyev, center back in uniform, former head of the state guard service, and brother of Kyrgyzstan's deposed President Kurmanbek Bakiyev, is surrounded by bodyguards at a rally in the city of Osh, southern Kyrgyzstan, Thursday, April 15, 2010.

Associated Press

hopes for a quick settlement of the crisis in the former Soviet republic, which hosts a U.S. air base at the capital's airport. The Manas base has resumed full operations, the U.S. Embassy said in a statement Thursday.

"Refueling operations continue as usual, and the transit of troops has resumed," the embassy said.

The troop transports to and from Afghanistan had been suspended since last week, other than a brief resumption Friday to fly a few hundred troops from the base back to

the U.S.

Russia, which also has an air base in Kyrgyzstan, has supported the U.S.-led operations in Afghanistan but has shown growing impatience with the U.S. military presence in the Central Asian region, which it considers its backyard.

Russian President Dmitry Medvedev said in a statement issued by the Kremlin on Thursday that the Bakiyev regime has collapsed because of corruption, its reliance on clan ties and inability to solve social problems. □



In this image taken from Russia 1 television channel TV, 7-year-old adopted Russian boy Artyom Savelyev gets into a minivan outside a police department office in Moscow, Thursday, April 8, 2010.

NATALIYA VASILYEVA
Associated Press Writer
MOSCOW (AP) — A Foreign Ministry spokesman said Thursday that adoptions of Russian children by U.S. families had been suspended, although other Russian and U.S. officials disputed this. Spokesman Andrei Nesterenko said during a briefing that new adoptions by Americans are on hold pending a visit

in the next few days by a U.S. delegation to reach an accord on future placement of Russian children. The U.S. hopes to resolve a bitter dispute that broke out last week, when an American woman sent her 7-year-old adopted son back to Russia on a plane by himself. “Further adoptions of Russian children by American citizens which are currently suspended

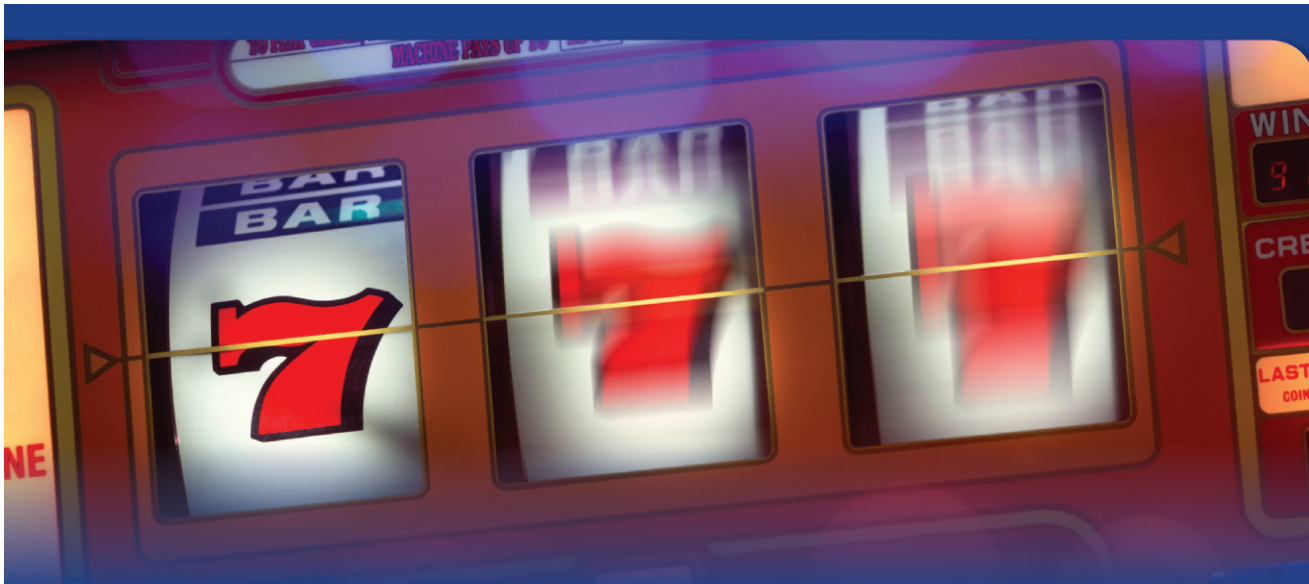
Associated Press

Russia suspends all adoptions to U.S. families

will be possible only if such a deal is reached,” Nesterenko said in a televised briefing. “Russia believes that only an agreement that contains effective tools for Russian and U.S. officials to monitor the living conditions of adopted Russian children will ensure that recent tragedies in the United States will not be repeated,” he said. But the Russia Education and Science Ministry, which oversees international adoptions, said it had no knowledge of an official freeze. A spokeswoman for the Kremlin’s children’s rights ombudsman said that organization also knew nothing of a suspension. And in Washington, the U.S. State Department said the administration had gotten conflicting information

when it sought clarification from Russian officials about the status of adoptions. Spokesman P.J. Crowley said the U.S. was continuing to seek clarification. “Right now, to be honest, we’ve received conflicting information,” he said. The boy’s return — with little supervision or explanation, aside from a note he carried from his adoptive mother saying he had psychological problems — outraged Russian authorities and the public. Russia has a large population of abused and neglected children, many of them the children of alcoholics. Many of these children wind up living in large institutions, because adoption by Russian families is still relatively uncommon. But as Russia has prospered over the past decade, the fate

of these children, especially of those sent abroad, has increasingly been the focus of concern. Russian lawmakers for years have suggested suspending foreign adoptions, citing a few high-publicized cases of abuse and killings of Russian children adopted by U.S. families. The Tennessee woman who sent back her adopted Russian son last Thursday claimed she had been misled by his Russian orphanage about his condition. Russians were outraged that no charges were filed against her in the United States. “How can we prosecute a person who abused the rights of a Russian child abroad?” the children’s rights ombudsman, Pavel Astakhov, said in a televised interview Wednesday. □



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Iceland's volcanic ash halts flights across Europe

JILL LAWLESS

Associated Press Writer

LONDON (AP) — An enormous ash cloud from a remote Icelandic volcano caused the biggest flight disruption since the 2001 terrorist attacks as it drifted over northern Europe and stranded travelers on six continents. Officials said it could take days for the skies to become safe again in one of aviation's most congested areas.

The cloud, floating miles (kilometers) above Earth and capable of knocking out jet engines, wrecked travel plans for tens of thousands of people Thursday, from tourists and business travelers to politicians and royals. They couldn't see the source of their frustration — except indirectly, when the ash created vivid red and lavender sunsets.

Non-emergency flights in Britain were canceled, and most will stay grounded until at least midday Friday. Authorities in Ireland, Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Finland and Belgium also closed their air space. France shut down 24 airports, including the main hub of Charles de Gaulle in Paris, Germany's Berlin and Hamburg were shut Thursday evening, and several flights out of the U.S. had to double back.

Kyla Evans, spokeswoman for air traffic service Eurocontrol, said half of all trans-Atlantic flights were expected to be canceled Friday.

At London's Heathrow airport, normally one of the world's busiest with more than 1,200 flights and 180,000 travelers a day, passengers stared forlornly at departure boards on which every flight was listed as canceled.

"We made it all the way to takeoff on the plane. ... They even showed us the safety

video," said Sarah Davis, 29, a physiotherapist from Portsmouth in southern England who was hoping to fly to Los Angeles. "I'm upset. I only get so much vacation." A volcano beneath Iceland's Eyjafjallajokull (ay-yah-FYAH'-plah-yer-kuh-duhl) glacier began erupting Wednesday for the second time in less than a month, triggering floods and shooting smoke and steam miles into the air. Video showed spectacular images of hot gases melting the thick ice, sending cascades of water thundering down the steep slopes of the volcano.

About 700 people from rural areas near the volcano were evacuated Thursday because of flash flooding, as water carrying icebergs the size of small houses rushed down the mountain. Most evacuees were allowed to return home after the floods subsided, but more flash floods are expected as long as the volcano keeps erupting, said Rognvaldur Olafsson of the Civil Protection Department.

The ash cloud became a menace to air travel as it drifted south and east toward northern Europe — including Britain, about 1,200 miles (2,000 kilometers) away. The ash plume drifted at between 20,000 feet and 36,000 feet (6,000 meters and 11,000 meters), where it could get sucked into airplane engines and cause them to shut down. The smoke and ash also could affect aircraft visibility. Britain's air traffic service said late Thursday it was extending a ban on most air traffic until 1 p.m. local time Friday, but flights to Scotland and Northern Ireland may be allowed to resume before then.

The agency said Britain had not halted all flights in its space in living memory, although many



Smoke and steam hangs over the volcano under the Eyjafjallajokull glacier in Iceland, Wednesday April 14, 2010, which has erupted for the second time in less than a month, melting ice, shooting smoke and steam into the air and forcing hundreds of people to flee rising floodwaters. Volcanic ash drifting across the Atlantic forced the cancellation of flights in Britain and disrupted air traffic across northern Europe, stranding thousands of passengers. Flights in and out of London Heathrow, Europe's busiest airport, were halted, and the shutdowns and cancellations spread to France, Belgium, the Netherlands, Denmark, Ireland, Sweden, Finland and Switzerland. The volcano's smoke and ash poses a threat to aircraft because it can affect visibility, and microscopic debris can get sucked into airplane engines and can cause them to shut down.

Associated Press

were grounded after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks in the United States.

"People can't remember a time when it has been on this scale," said Patrick Horwood of the air traffic service. "Certainly never involving a volcano."

Eurocontrol spokeswoman Evans said the ash had led to the cancellation of about 4,000 flights within Europe Thursday, and that could rise to 6,000 Friday.

Several U.S. flights bound for Heathrow, including

those from Chicago, San Francisco, Denver, Las Vegas and New York, had to return to their departure cities or land elsewhere when London airports were closed. Canadian airlines also canceled some Europe-bound flights. □



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FILE - In this April 18, 2007 file photo, singer songwriter Melissa Etheridge, left and Tammy Lynn Michaels arrive at the 24th Annual American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers Pop Music Awards in Los Angeles.

(AP Photo/Gus Ruelas, file)

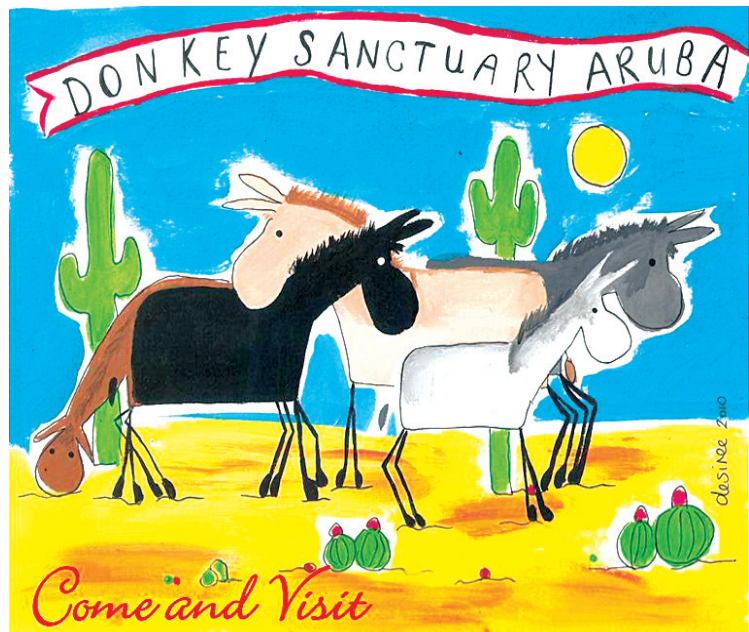
Melissa Etheridge and partner announce separation

NEW YORK — Rocker Melissa Etheridge and her partner, actress Tammy Lynn Michaels Etheridge, have announced their separation.

In a statement Thursday, they asked for “consideration and respect for our family as we go through this difficult period.” The two held a commitment ceremony in Malibu, Calif., in 2003. Tammy Etheridge, 35, gave birth to twins — a son, Miller, and a daughter, Johnnie Rose — in 2006. The couple used an anonymous donor from a sperm bank.

The 48-year-old singer shares custody of daughter Bailey Jean and son Beckett with former partner Julie Cypher. Musician David Crosby was the sperm donor for the children, who were delivered by Cypher.

Melissa Etheridge was diagnosed with breast cancer in 2004. □



London museum showcases Grace Kelly's gowns

LONDON — Dresses that Grace Kelly wore in screen classics such as “High Society” and “Rear Window” are going on show at a London museum.

“Grace Kelly: Style Icon” at the Victoria and Albert Museum will display the glamorous wardrobe of the Oscar winning actress-turned-princess. Exhibits include the gown Kelly wore to accept her Oscar in 1955, as well as the outfit she wore to her first meeting with her husband Prince Rainier III of Monaco later that year.

The museum says the exhibition, which opens Saturday, explores the blond screen siren’s enduring appeal.

The show will trace the evolution of her style as Princess Grace of Monaco, with haute couture gowns by her favorite couturiers Dior, Balenciaga, Givenchy and Yves St Laurent.

Kelly died in 1982 at age 52. □



FILE - In this April 18, 2007 file photo, Larry King and his wife Shaun arrive to a party held by CNN celebrating King’s fifty years of broadcasting, New York.

(AP Photo/Stuart Ramson, file)

LOS ANGELES — Larry King filed for divorce on Wednesday shortly before his seventh wife also sought to end the couple’s nearly 13-year-old marriage. The 76-year-old host of CNN’s “Larry King Live” filed



The dress that U.S. film actress Grace Kelly wore in the film ‘High Society’ is photographed on display, as one of a number of dresses from the wardrobe of Grace Kelly which goes on display at the V&A museum this spring, London, Thursday, April 16, 2010.

(AP Photo/Joel Ryan)

CNN host Larry King, 7th wife file for divorce

hours before Shawn King filed her own petition. Both cited “irreconcilable differences.”

The couple were married in a hospital room in 1997 three days before Larry King underwent surgery to clear a clogged blood vessel. They have two sons, ages 11 and 9. The petitions differ in that Larry King is seeking joint custody, while his 50-year-old wife wants physical custody. Larry King is also asking a judge not to award his wife any spousal support and to invalidate an agreement in which he transferred property to her, court records show.

Shawn King’s petition seeks spousal support from her husband, along with

ownership of the couple’s home in Beverly Hills, Calif., and two properties in Utah.

“His major concern is the welfare of his children,” said Howard Rubenstein, a spokesman for Larry King, adding that the talk-show host would not comment further on the divorce.

King’s nightly news and interview show has been a CNN mainstay for nearly 25 years. He has three children from previous relationships. The couple started house-hunting in California shortly after their marriage and lived in Beverly Hills. He is a Los Angeles Dodgers season ticket-holder and announced the start of the team’s home opener to fans Tuesday. □

BUSINESS

Aruba TODAY

Rise in jobless claims underscores wobbly recovery

By JEANNINE AVERSA,
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON — A spike in unemployment claims Thursday underscored the bumpiness of the economic rebound: Consumers are spending more. Factories are making more. But layoffs have not tapered off as fast as expected.

Socantherecoverygathermuch steam if 17 percent of working-age Americans remain jobless or underemployed?

Employers have begun to add jobs recently, including 162,000 in March. Yet much stronger job creation is needed to ease the current 9.7 percent unemployment rate. And if layoffs were to spike and job creation sputter, the recovery could fall back into a “double-dip” recession.

The odds of that have receded as the economy has strengthened. But it can’t be dismissed.

“It looks like we’re on a path to moderate recovery and that the risk of a double-dip, while certainly not negligible, it is certainly less than it was a few months ago,” Federal Reserve

Chairman Ben Bernanke told Congress on Wednesday. “That being said, there are any number of possible things that could derail it.”

At the top of Bernanke’s risk list: Chronically high unemployment, which he said could cause consumers to spend less and weaken the recovery. Economists think unemployment will probably remain above 9 percent by the November midterm elections, making Democratic and Republican incumbents in Congress vulnerable, particularly in hard-hit states. President Barack Obama is summoning top economic advisers for a meeting Friday to talk about creating new jobs, the White House said.

In its report on unemployment claims, the government said the number of newly laid-off people signing up for jobless aid last week surged 24,000 to a seasonally adjusted 484,000. That was the most since late February. Economists had predicted a drop in first-time claims.

It marked the second week that claims unexpectedly leaped.

The government cautioned against reading much into the past two weeks’ figures, saying they were skewed by seasonal adjustments related to Easter.

But some economists were disheartened by the report. Mike Feroli, economist at JP Morgan Chase Bank, called the back-to-back increases “a clear disappointment” and “a puzzle against the backdrop of generally improving economic data.” One theory is that hiring is being held back by productivity gains. Companies are boosting production and meeting customer demand by squeezing more work from their existing staff. That means they can get by with fewer workers.

For all of 2009, workers’ productivity grew 3.8 percent. It was the fastest pace in seven years. If that pace of productivity growth were to persist, Bernanke said Wednesday, “there is a possibility — I wouldn’t consider it the leading possibility — but there is a possibility that unemployment will stay stubbornly high, around 10 percent.” □



In this April 14, 2010 photo, Brad Steele, right, interviews with Betsy Harris, left, of Express Employment Professionals at a National CareerFair, in Cincinnati. The number of newly laid off people signing up for unemployment benefits rose sharply for the second straight week, suggesting that jobs are still hard to come by even as the economic recovery gains traction.

(AP Photo/Al Behrman)



In this April 12, 2010 photo, traders work on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange. Stock futures are falling Thursday, April 15, as investors pause after five straight days of gains.

(AP Photo/Richard Drew)

By TIM PARADIS,
AP Business Writer

NEWYORK—An encouraging earnings forecast from UPS and stronger manufacturing figures gave the stock market its sixth straight advance.

The gains Thursday were modest following a surprise increase in the number of newly laid off people seeking unemployment benefits.

Analysts said a slowdown in the market’s upward push

Stocks edge higher on mixed reports, UPS outlook

was overdue. The Dow Jones industrial average rose 21 points after racing up nearly 104 on Wednesday. The Dow closed above 11,000 Monday for the first time in a year and a half. Other major stock indexes also stand at their highest levels since 2008.

The technology-dominated Nasdaq composite index posted the biggest rise of major indexes ahead of earnings from Google Inc. The Internet search company reported after the closing bell that its first-quarter profit rose 37 percent but the stock fell 4 percent in

electronic trading on concerns the company wasn’t holding down costs.

Nasdaq 100 index futures slipped 0.1 percent following Google’s report.

The forecast from UPS Inc. raised hopes that the economy is strengthening. The company raised its full-year earnings target because of stronger international deliveries. As the world’s largest shipping company, UPS’s results are seen as an early indicator of overall business activity. UPS shares rose 5.3 percent.

The UPS numbers and

improved manufacturing reports from the Federal Reserve helped to offset some of the concern about the jobs figures.

The Labor Department reported that initial claims for unemployment benefits rose unexpectedly for a second straight week. First-time claims for jobless benefits rose by 24,000 to 484,000 last week, the highest level since late February. Economists polled by Thomson Reuters forecast a drop. The Easter holiday could have skewed the numbers, analysts said. □

SPORTS

Aruba TODAY

Tiger Woods adds Quail Hollow to schedule

MIKE CRANSTON

AP Sports Writer

CHARLOTTE, North Carolina (AP) — Out of golf for five months until the Masters, Tiger Woods will tee it up again in only two weeks at the Quail Hollow Championship.

Woods announced on Thursday he will play in the U.S. PGA Tour event which begins on April 29. It will be his first time playing at a tournament where tickets are sold to the general public since his spectacular downfall from a sex scandal.

Woods tied for fourth last week at the Masters, which has the most controlled gallery in golf. Weekly badges are secured months in advance, and fans fear losing them if caught showing poor etiquette. Woods received warm applause when he teed off in the first round, and the support was steady throughout the week.

Kym Hougham, tournament director for the Charlotte event, said they've been preparing for Woods' possible participation for some time, and will need to make only slight tweaks with security plans.

Hougham doesn't expect Woods to run into problems from hecklers at Quail Hollow Club.



Tiger Woods tips his cap on the 18th green after finishing his final round of the Masters golf tournament in Augusta, Ga., Sunday, April 11, 2010.

Associated Press

"I think our crowds are very respectful and they always have been. The players have always told us that," Hougham said. "If there is inappropriate behavior, we'll act on it swiftly. I'm sure that if Tiger didn't feel we could handle it he wouldn't be coming here." The early commitment was a sign that Woods plans to be helpful to the promotion

of tournaments. He had been criticized over the years for waiting until the last day to announce he was playing, except for tournaments to which he had a sponsorship connection.

The commitment deadline for Quail Hollow is April 23.

"It's going to be a huge benefit for the people who have been waiting to buy tickets,"

Hougham said. "Ironically, our Saturday daily tickets sold out yesterday. Friday and Sunday are not far behind, so this will probably put us over the top, which we're excited about. The economy has made people change their buying habits and people are waiting longer."

Woods has played the Quail Hollow Championship four times, winning in 2007. He finished fourth last year, two shots behind Sean O'Hair.

But his return will be unlike his other visits after his Nov. 27 car crash near his home led to salacious details about his infidelity.

Tournament media director Lee Patterson said the media credential request deadline was April 2, and there were 72 requests on Thursday. Patterson said they'll make room for reporters with U.S. PGA Tour national badges.

What about others, such as celebrity magazines and tabloids?

"We'll try the best we can," he said. "At some point, I'll be maxed out."

It's uncertain what Woods' pre-tournament plans will be, and how often he'll be available to the media.

Last year, Woods spoke to reporters in Charlotte after playing in the Wednesday pro-am. □



FILE - This April 12, 2010, file photo shows Philadelphia 76ers coach Eddie Jordan reacting to a foul call in the second half of an NBA basketball game against the Miami Heat, in Philadelphia. A person familiar with the decision tells The Associated Press that Eddie Jordan will be fired Thursday, April 15, 2010, after one season as Philadelphia 76ers coach. The person spoke on condition of anonymity Wednesday night because an announcement has not been made.

Associated Press

76ers fire coach Jordan after 1 season

DAN GELSTON

AP Sports Writer

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — The Philadelphia 76ers fired coach Eddie Jordan after one season on Thursday.

Team president and general manager Ed Stefanski announced the move, saying the Sixers took an "unacceptable" step backward after two straight seasons in the NBA playoffs.

Jordan was finished after a woefully underachieving season that had the Sixers near the bottom of the Eastern Conference. Jordan was hired last summer on a three-year deal.

The players were unhappy with his system almost from the start and the Sixers struggled to put together any kind of winning streaks. The Sixers finished with a 27-55 win-loss record and missed the playoffs for the first time in three years. □

AL Roundup

Rain, Red Sox fall on Twins 6-3 at Target Field

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Rain fell on the Twins at home for the first time in 29 years as John Lackey pitched the Boston Red Sox past Minnesota 6-3 on Wednesday.

Lackey turned in a second strong start and Jeremy Hermida gave Boston room with a three-run double in the eighth inning in the second game at Target Field.

Lackey (1-0) lasted 6 2-3 innings for his first Red Sox victory, lifted early by Marco

Scutaro's two singles and Dustin Pedroia's RBI double and solo home run.

Rays 9, Orioles 1

At Baltimore, B.J. Upton homered twice and drove in four runs, and Carlos Pena hit a three-run shot as Tampa ended a dreadful

homestand for Baltimore.

David Price (2-0) allowed one run and four hits in seven innings for the Rays, whose 6-3 start is the best in franchise history. Tampa Bay swept the three-game series, something it did only once on the road last year.

Miguel Tejada homered for the Orioles, who went 0-6 and were outscored 37-16 during their opening homestand against Toronto and the Rays. Baltimore has one win from nine games, its worst start since going 0-21 in 1988.

At New York, Joel Pineiro pitched seven impressive innings for his first win with his new team as Los Angeles showed signs of shaking their early slump, holding off New York.

Continued on Page 15

NHL PLAYOFFS

Senators surprise Pens 5-4 in series opener

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Erik Karlsson and Chris Kelly scored on power plays in the second period as the Ottawa Senators surprised the Stanley Cup champion Pittsburgh Penguins with a 5-4 victory in Game 1 of the Eastern Conference first-round series Wednesday.

Evgeni Malkin scored twice following penalties on Peter Regin, the first barely 3 minutes into the game, but the Penguins looked mostly flat and uninspired.

Sidney Crosby, who piled up 15 points in his final five regular-season games, had three assists but didn't get a shot until the third period and the Penguins — seemingly unprepared for Ottawa's defensive pressure — were held to a single shot during a stretch lasting 21 minutes, 53 seconds. Ottawa constantly matched shutdown defensemen Anton Volchenkov and Chris Phillips against the Crosby line.

Kelly also had two assists, and Regin, Jarkko Ruutu and Chris Neil added goals for Ottawa. Craig Adams and Alex Goligoski also scored for Pittsburgh.

Flyers 2, Devils 1

At Newark, New Jersey, Brian Boucher had 23 saves in his first playoff start in eight years as Philadelphia beat New Jersey in Game 1 of their Eastern Conference series.

Chris Pronger and Mike Richards scored second-period goals, and the Flyers rode the momentum of claiming the NHL's last playoff berth on the final day of the regular season to yet another win over New Jersey.

While the Flyers are the No. 7 seed in the conference, they won five of six games against the Devils in the regular season and second-seeded New Jersey had few answers in the postseason against a rock-solid Boucher.

New Jersey gave its unhappy

fans some hope when Travis Zajac scored on a somewhat flubbed slap shot that seemed to bounce in front of Boucher with 2:43 to play.

Boucher, however, stopped Patrik Elias in close with about 10 seconds to go and the Flyers cleared the puck out of the zone on the ensuing faceoff.

Avalanche 2, Sharks 1

At San Jose, California, Chris Stewart's shot deflected off San Jose defender Rob Blake's skate and into the net with 50 seconds left in regulation to lift Colorado past the Sharks in the opener of the Western Conference first-round series.

The loss was just the latest playoff disappointment for the Sharks, who have made a bad



Ottawa Senators goalie Brian Elliott, center, celebrates with teammates Matt Cullen (7) and Chris Neil after the Senators beat the Pittsburgh Penguins 5-4 in a first-round NHL playoff hockey game in Pittsburgh on Wednesday, April 14, 2010.

Associated Press

habit of following up stellar regular seasons with early postseason exits. San Jose has lost Game 1 at home in its past four playoff series.

With a second-period goal by John-Michael Liles, 25 saves from playoff novice Craig Anderson and a fortunate bounce off the skate of one of its former star players in Blake, the Avalanche are off

to a roaring playoff start.

Ryane Clowe scored for San Jose.

In other NHL matches Ottawa 5, Pittsburgh 4, Ottawa leads series 1-0, Philadelphia 2, New Jersey 1, Philadelphia leads series 1-0, Phoenix 3, Detroit 2, Phoenix leads series 1-0, Colorado 2, San Jose 1, Colorado leads series 1-0

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Nadal leads 5 Spaniards into Monte Carlo quarters



Fernando Verdasco of Spain reacts after defeating Tomas Berdych of Czech Republic during their third round match of the Monte Carlo Tennis Masters tournament in Monaco, Thursday, April 15, 2010.

Associated Press

JEROME PUGMIRE

AP Sports Writer

MONACO (AP) — Rafael

Nadal thrashed Michael Berrer 6-0, 6-1 on Thursday to win his 29th straight match at the Monte Carlo Masters and join two-time former champion Juan Carlos Ferrero and three other Spanish players in the quarterfinals.

Having routed Dutch player Thiemo de Bakker 6-1, 6-0 on Wednesday, Nadal looked to be heading for a perfect score until his German opponent rescued a game when serving at 5-0 down in the second set, prompting huge cheers from the crowd.

The second-seeded Nadal, who has not lost at Monte Carlo since 2003, had no trouble serving out the match.

"I played better than yesterday," the five-time defending champion Nadal said. "I played higher, I played

close to the lines, and my feeling is I had more control on the ball than yesterday."

He next plays the ninth-seeded Ferrero, the Monte Carlo champion in 2002 and '03 — the year he won the French Open.

Ferrero, who has won two titles this year, struggled to get past No. 5 Jo-Wilfried Tsonga of France, winning 6-1, 3-6, 7-5 on his third match point.

Ferrero has won just two of his previous eight meetings against Nadal, although that includes the last matchup on clay in the second round of the Rome Masters two years ago. The four-time French Open champion Nadal also leads Ferrero 4-1 on clay.

"I would love to play (him) maybe (in the) semifinal or the final, but right now the draw is

like this," Ferrero said. "I will try to play very aggressive with my forehand to his backhand, and then I will try not to make a lot of mistakes."

Ferrero held easily to lead 6-5, forcing Tsonga to serve to stay in the match, and the Spaniard clinched victory when the Frenchman's forehand flew into the net after a short rally. Earlier, sixth-seeded Fernando Verdasco, No. 11 David Ferrer and Albert Montanes all won their third-round matches.

Verdasco rallied from a set down to beat Tomas Berdych of the Czech Republic 5-7, 6-3, 6-2; Ferrer beat No. 8 Ivan Ljubicic of Croatia 6-0, 7-6 (4); and Montanes won 6-4, 6-4 against No. 4 Marin Cilic, dominating the big-serving Croat from the baseline.

David Nalbandian ended the Spanish streak of victories

when he beat No. 12 Tommy Robredo 6-3, 6-4.

Even though he had played for nearly three hours against Mikhail Youzhny late into Wednesday evening, Nalbandian was light on his feet and showed clinical finishing, taking all three of his breakpoint chances against Robredo. Verdasco converted his first match point when the 10th-seeded Berdych ended a brief rally with a sloppy backhand into the net. Verdasco next meets Albert Montanes in an all-Spanish quarterfinal; while Ferrer plays Philipp Kohlschreiber after he beat Philipp Petzschner 6-3, 6-4 in an all-German match.

Later, top-seeded Novak Djokovic faced Stanislas Wawrinka. Nadal beat Djokovic in last year's final.



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NL Roundup

Cards beat winless Astros, Houston drops to 0-8

ST. LOUIS (AP) — Houston lost its eighth straight game to start the season after Brad Penny and Albert Pujols combined to give the St. Louis Cardinals a 2-1 win over the Astros on Wednesday.

New Astros manager Brad Mills held a rare, off-day optional workout Tuesday at Busch Stadium in an effort to help players relax, but to no avail as Houston scored one or fewer runs for the fifth time.

Another loss in the series finale Thursday would match the franchise-worst 0-9 start in 1983. The Astros recovered that year, finishing 85-77.

Penny (1-0) allowed an unearned run on three hits in seven innings. Pujols drove in his major league-leading 15th run.

Diamondbacks 9, Dodgers 7, 11 innings

At Los Angeles, Chris Young hit a go-ahead RBI single with the bases loaded in the 11th inning, and Justin Upton and Stephen Drew homered as Arizona edged Los Angeles. Matt Kemp homered for the third time in four games and drove in three runs for the Dodgers in a game that took 4 hours, 57 minutes to complete. Each team used eight pitchers.

Cubs 7, Brewers 6

At Chicago, Kosuke Fukudome and Ryan Theriot each hit two-run singles with two outs in the eighth inning as Chicago beat Milwaukee. The Cubs prevailed even though left fielder Alfonso Soriano got lifted after more



Houston Astros' Hunter Pence (9) jogs off the field after grounding out for the final out of a baseball game, as St. Louis Cardinals' Adam Wainwright, left, Jaime Garcia and David Freese, right, celebrate the Cardinals' 2-1 victory Wednesday, April 14, 2010, in St. Louis.

defensive lapses. Theriot had four hits, Fukudome drove in three runs and Geovany Soto hit his first homer.

LaTroy Hawkins (0-1) retired the first two Cubs hitters in the eighth, but a single by Jeff Baker and walks to Geovany Soto and Tyler Colvin loaded the bases. Theriot singled and stole second, setting up Fukudome's go-ahead hit.

At San Francisco, Aubrey Huff hit the first inside-the-park home run of his career and Jonathan Sanchez struck out 11 as San Francisco blanked Pittsburgh.

Huff got a helpful carom to circle the bases. Eli Whiteside hit a three-run shot later in the second inning and Aaron

Rowand homered a few innings after them.

Sanchez (1-0) matched his career best with 11 strikeouts in eight scoreless innings. The Giants improved to 7-2, their best start since beginning 8-1 in 2003 — their last playoff season.

Huff led off the second with a drive that hit the arch on the facade in right-center. The ball ricocheted into right field and gave Huff ample time to round the bases.

At Philadelphia, Chase Utley hit two homers and Shane Victorino drove in a career-high five runs as Philadelphia beat Washington for its best start in 17 years.

The two-time defending

National League champions are 7-1 for the first time since their pennant-winning season in 1993. A potent offense has carried the Phillies — they've averaged eight runs per game. Nelson Figueroa (1-1) allowed one run in 3 1-3 innings in relief of Kyle Kendrick. Three other relievers combined for four scoreless innings.

Marlins 5, Reds 3

At Miami, Jorge Cantu homered, making him the first player in major league history to have at least one hit and one RBI in each of his team's first nine games, as Florida beat Cincinnati.

Cantu's mark dates to 1920, when RBIs became an official statistic.

Cantu hit a solo home run in the fifth inning. He entered the game tied with George Kelly of the 1921 New York Giants with at least one hit and RBI in the opening eight games, based on research by the Elias Sports Bureau.

Including last season, Cantu has 13 consecutive games with a hit and an RBI, the longest string since Mike Piazza went 15 straight from June 14-July 2, 2000.

Brett Carroll also homered for Florida.

Rockies 6, Mets 5, 10 innings
At Denver, Chris Iannetta homered to lead off the 10th, an inning after his throwing error let the New York Mets draw level with Colorado.

The Colorado catcher sent a pitch from Jenrry Mejia (0-1) into the centerfield bleachers to give the Rockies their third straight win and send the Mets to their fourth loss in a row.

Jeff Francoeur and David Wright homered for the Mets. In the ninth, Gary Matthews Jr. began with a single off closer Franklin Morales, stole second and took third when Iannetta's throw went into center. After Jose Reyes struck out, Luis Castillo scored Matthews with a sacrifice fly.

In other NL games it was, Chicago Cubs 7, Milwaukee 6; San Francisco 6, Pittsburgh 0; Philadelphia 14, Washington 7; Florida 5, Cincinnati 3; St. Louis 2, Houston 1; Colorado 6, N.Y. Mets 5, 10 innings; Atlanta 6, San Diego 1; and Arizona 9, L.A. Dodgers 7, 11 innings. □

AL ROUNDUP

Continued from Page 12

Bobby Abreu and Kendry Morales each hit an RBI double off a rocky Javier Vazquez, and Los Angeles (3-6) finally got a first-rate performance on the mound after opening with its worst eight-game start since 1972.

Mark Teixeira went hitless again and Alex Rodriguez struck out all three times up against Pineiro (1-1). At Detroit, Jose Guillen homered for the fourth straight game, connecting for his 200th career shot and leading Kansas City over Detroit. Guillen hit his fifth home run in a four-game span. His solo drive capped a two-run seventh inning that put the Royals ahead 5-3.

Billy Butler added a pair of sacrifice flies for the Royals. Magglio Ordonez homered for

the Tigers and Johnny Damon got his 1,000th career RBI.

At Toronto, Carlos Quentin hit a grand slam and drove in six runs to help Chicago beat Toronto in front of the smallest crowd to attend the Blue Jays' stadium.

Only 10,610 were at Rogers Center to see the rout. With the Toronto Raptors playing across town for a spot in the NBA playoffs the city's attention was elsewhere — even though the Maple Leafs missed the NHL playoffs.

In other AL games it was, Kansas City 7, Detroit 3; L.A. Angels 5, N.Y. Yankees 3; Boston 6, Minnesota 3; Tampa Bay 9, Baltimore 1; Texas 6, Cleveland 2; Chicago White Sox 11, Toronto 1; and Seattle 4, Oakland 2. □



SPORTS

Aruba TODAY

NBA Roundup

Bulls reach playoffs after 98-89 win over Bobcats

CHARLOTTE, North Carolina (AP) — The Chicago Bulls clinched the NBA's last unclaimed playoff spot on Wednesday night, as Derrick Rose scored 27 points and Joakim Noah added 21 points and 13 rebounds in a 98-89 victory over the Charlotte Bobcats.

The Bulls closed the regular season with a three-game winning streak to beat out Toronto for the right to face Eastern Conference top seed Cleveland.

Needing a win or a Raptors loss to New York to get in, the Bulls quickly took it to the Bobcats, never trailing and leading by as many as 18 points.

Tyrus Thomas scored 16 for the Bobcats, who had already locked up the seventh seed in the East and a first-round matchup with Orlando.

Thunder 114, Grizzlies 105

At Oklahoma City, Kevin Durant scored 31 points to finish the season as the youngest scoring champion in NBA history.

The 21-year-old Durant finished with an average of 30.1 points, 0.4 ahead of LeBron James, and supplanted 22-year-old Max Zaslofsky of the 1947-48 Chicago Stags as the youngest scoring champ in NBA history.

The Thunder let most of a 27-point lead dwindle away before closing out their 50th win of the season. They will meet the defending NBA champion Los Angeles Lakers in the first round of the playoffs.

Rudy Gay scored 25 points and Zach Randolph had 21 points and 11 rebounds for his 57th double-double of the season as the Grizzlies lost for the ninth time in their final 11 games.

Raptors 131, Knicks 113

At Toronto, DeMar DeRozan



Oklahoma City Thunder forward Kevin Durant goes up for a dunk in the third quarter of an NBA basketball game in Oklahoma City, Wednesday, April 14, 2010. Durant scored 31 points to finish the season as the youngest scoring champion in NBA history. The Thunder won 114-105.

Associated Press

scored a career-high 24 points and Andrea Bargnani also scored 24 for Toronto, which owned the tiebreaker with Chicago and would have earned the No. 8 seed had the teams finished with the same record.

Amir Johnson scored 21 points, Sonny Weems had 18, Jose Calderon had 15 and Marco Belinelli 14 for the Raptors. Toronto's 131 points were a season high.

Mavericks 96, Spurs 89

At Dallas, Jason Kidd and Jason Terry led a 16-2 run at the end of the first quarter, putting the Mavericks ahead for the game and setting up a first-round playoff matchup between these teams.

Dallas clinched the No. 2 seed in the Western Conference and

San Antonio the seventh.

Before tipoff, Mavs owner Mark Cuban jokingly said this season finale was "Game Minus-1" of that series — and that was before the Spurs helped ensure the matchup by giving Tim Duncan and Manu Ginobili the night off. Both were on the initial lineup turned in by coach Gregg Popovich, but neither ended up even sitting on the bench.

Celtics 106, Bucks 95

At Boston, Jerry Stackhouse and Luke Ridnour scored 17 points apiece as the Milwaukee Bucks won their regular-season finale while Boston rested its Big Three in preparation for the playoffs.

With Paul Pierce, Kevin Garnett and Ray Allen sitting out to avoid possible injury, the

lack of defense and excitement had spectators moving toward the exits midway through the fourth quarter.

Rajon Rondo had 21 points and 15 assists for the Celtics, who lost for the seventh time in 10 games.

Magic 125, 76ers 111

At Orlando, Jameer Nelson had 21 points and Vince Carter scored 17 as Orlando broke the single-season record for 3-pointers made in a season.

Dwight Howard added 15 points and 12 rebounds to help the Magic finish with 841 from beyond the arc and the NBA's second-best record.

Marreese Speights' 23 points capped a sorry Sixers season and perhaps the last game in Eddie Jordan's tenure as coach.

Hawks 99, Cavaliers 83

At Atlanta, Jeff Teague set career highs with 24 points and 15 assists as Atlanta cruised past a Cavaliers lineup missing LeBron James.

The Cavs rested James and Shaquille O'Neal the night off. At the other end of the court, Joe Johnson and Jamal Crawford watched in street clothes; the Hawks played only one regular starter, Marvin Williams.

Both teams were already locked into their playoff seedings.

At Miami, Michael Beasley had 25 points and 13 rebounds and Mario Chalmers scored 15 points as Miami wrapped up the No. 5 seed in the Eastern Conference.

The Nets became just the fifth team in NBA history to lose 70 games in a season.

Dorell Wright and James Jones each added 11 points for Miami, which played without Dwyane Wade, Udonis Haslem and Jermaine O'Neal and will meet Boston in the first round.

Yi Jianlian scored 23 points

and pulled down 15 rebounds for New Jersey.

Wizards 98, Pacers 97

At Washington, Andray Blatche scored 26 points for the hosts in a season-ending game for a pair of lottery-bound teams.

Rookie Cedric Jackson made a 3-pointer with 1:31 to play to give the Wizards the lead, and the scoreboard didn't budge the rest of the way. Danny Granger missed a 15-footer at the buzzer that would have given the Pacers the win.

At Minneapolis, Charlie Villanueva scored 13 of his 16 points in the fourth quarter to help Detroit win on the road. Tayshaun Prince added 20 points for the Pistons, who trailed by 16 points in the third quarter.

Corey Brewer had 27 points and Al Jefferson had 16 points and 11 rebounds for the Timberwolves (15-67), who lost 29 of their final 31 games of the season to equal a club record for fewest victories in a season.

At Houston, David West had 35 points and 10 rebounds, and rookie Darren Collison added 26 points and 11 assists to lead New Orleans.

Marcus Thornton scored 20 points for the Hornets, who won for the second time in their final 14 road games.

In other NBA games it was, Dallas 96, San Antonio 89; New Orleans 123, Houston 115; Detroit 103, Minnesota 98; Oklahoma City 114, Memphis 105; Atlanta 99, Cleveland 83; Milwaukee 106, Boston 95; Chicago 98, Charlotte 89; Washington 98, Indiana 97; Toronto 131, New York 113; Miami 94, New Jersey 86, 2OT; Orlando 125, Philadelphia 111; L.A. Clippers 107, L.A. Lakers 91; Golden State 122, Portland 116; and Phoenix 100, Utah 86. □

At the Aruba Beach Villas in Malmok

Peter & Kathy Wiemar honored as Ambassadors of Goodwill



MALMOK - Recently at the Aruba Beach Villas vacationers were presented with honorary titles created by the Ministry of Tourism as a token of appreciation to guest visiting Aruba for ten and 20 consecutive years.

Special friends of Aruba, enjoying ten or more

annual vacations here, are given the Distinguished Guest certificate and those with twenty consecutive years are awarded the Ambassador of goodwill title. The recent honoring were effected by the Aruba Tourism Authority associate Ricardo Croes at the Aruba Beach Villas they call their home away from

home. Peter & Kathy Wiemar were honored as an Ambassador of goodwill after visiting Aruba for 20 years .

Pictured: Peter & Kathy together with their family and Mr. Ricardo Croes from ATA together with the staff from the Aruba Beach Villas. □

Salt & Pepper is the place to be for a farewell

Dutch hospitality interns return after stay on Aruba



ARAWAK GARDENS - Aruba is home of lots of interns working in hotels and restaurants. But an internship will come to his end and this deserves a fun last night out with all the fellow interns. This group chooses Salt & Pepper as the place to be because they offer something for everybody for reasonable prices. Tapas, fresh fish, burgers, salads, pasta, it's hard to not find anything you like. The terrace has enough space to seat large groups and you can enjoy the friendly service and relaxing life music. Whoever feels like it can even sing-a-long. Of course a farewell dinner comes with a farewell present and a big typical local cocktail, Aruba Ariba! Dinner is over but don't feel like going home yet? Hop inside and take over the bar...

Continued on Next Page

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Canadians Celebrating at the Holiday Inn Sunspree Resort and Casino

Sunset Happy Birthday for Jim Bell on Aruba



PALM BEACH - Cathy and Jim Bell and friends are staying at the Holiday Inn and celebrating Jim's 50th birthday in style. They celebrated on Thursday the 15th of April and were all in their matching shirts all afternoon as they enjoyed their day in the gazebo area of the Holiday Inn Sunspree Resort.

After a fun day in the sun and happy hour(s) under the palapa, the group of Canadians continued their celebration of Jim's birthday in the Sea Breeze Restaurant of the resort as the sun gently set into the Caribbean Sea. □

~ Photos by Julia Renfro ~



Dutch hospitality interns return after stay on Aruba



Continued from Page B1

Salt & Pepper is located at Arawak Garden, Palm

Beach, in front of Occidental Grand.

Specials: every day Sunset Special: free sangria with

your meal between 5-7 pm. Happy Hour Friday, Saturday, Sunday 4-6 pm. □

Art Rules Aruba 2010, calls for teens to sign up via website

ORANJESTAD -- Get ready as The Pancake Gallery Foundation kicks off its first edition of Art Rules Aruba on July 16th 2010.

Art Rules Aruba is an educational Arts Program for the Youth of Aruba that offers a 2 week intensive "Summer" workshop program in 7 disciplines of the Arts including, Dance, Theatre, Poetry & Rap, DJing & Music Production, Photography & Design, Fashion and a bonus workshop in film.

Presented by an international team of artists, directors, producers, DJs dancers and actors, Aruba's teens will experience an international exchange of Arts with teachers coming from cities including London, Amsterdam, New York, Washington, Rotterdam, Quebec and of course homegrown Aruba!! on July 19th classes will start with 250 kids in the age group of

14-21 getting the opportunity to participate, divided in the following disciplines, Dance, 50, Theatre, 30, DJ-ing & Music production 40, Fashion 30, Poetry & Rap 40 and film 16.

Register all your information, choose your discipline of interest and write a motivation letter stating your enthusiasm for the program and why you want to get involved.

Fortunately, a good number of the Art Rules Aruba teachers are qualified to work with kids with special needs, thus this program will indeed be inclusive, and everybody with an interest in art is invited to attend.

Classes will take place in both San Nicolaas and Oranjestad and If you are not in the age group, too young or just over 21; do not worry; Art Rules Aruba will also offer opportunities for you to attend



master classes in the evening and special events during the week and on the weekends in several locations on the Island for the duration of the two weeks.

For more information on the

program, the special events or how to apply, visit www.artrulesaruba.com or pick up an application form at your local schools, Unoca, Bibliotheek or Cas Di Cultura.

You can also send an email to

info@pancakegallery.com and get an application form sent to you.

Read up on the Pancake Gallery and its movements on the blog www.thepancakegallery.blogspot.com

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At the Aruba Marketing Conference 2010

Students explore brave new world of visitor behaviors

Conference to take place tomorrow at the University of Aruba



ORANJESTAD - Great storms have a way of altering landscapes. Once the waters recede, some of the changes are clear: uprooted trees, wrecked roads, but also new wetlands and undiscovered opportunities. Exploring this new brave world requires a new generation of leadership and vision, one which is at the heart of the Faculty of Tourism at the University of Aruba. With the forthcoming Aruba Marketing Conference on April 17 at the University of Aruba, students of tourism

will take center stage in presenting their research on the branding of Aruba and the actual behaviors of our visitors.

Beyond the boundaries of branding, we find the actual attitudes and behaviors of tourists as they interact with the product 'Aruba'.

Images translate into investments, expectations into experiences, and together these define the perceived quality of Aruban tourism. Beauty indeed lies in the eye of the beholder, and understanding

how our visitors experience their vacation on Aruba is an important aspect in improving our quality as a destination as we seek to create a more sustainable future.

Aruba has relied on the tourism industry for decades, and while we have enjoyed its fortunes and have thrived like no other Caribbean destination, understanding the new fundamentals of tourism, the so-called 'new tourism' remains an imperative. For this reason, Aruba's marketers concerns have been focused on evaluating its performance towards customer satisfaction and service quality, in order to attract new visitors but also to improve visitor loyalty and profitability.

At the Aruba Marketing Conference different students will explore visitor behaviors in terms of value, quality, satisfaction and loyalty. The students will focus on several important elements as they relate to value for money and visitor satisfaction, the visitor experience of other Caribbean

destinations, and changes in retention rates. Three of the students that will present their findings are Miss Eliana Arguello, Miss Ka Man Hui and Mr. Clifton Starke.

Miss Eliana Arguello graduated as chemist in 2004 after working for a company as chemist analyst. "I discovered that working in a lab in solitude was not for me and decided to study Hospitality management, graduated with honors from EPI where I got my associate degree and discovered my passion of working with and for people in this business during my internships" she explains. She worked as wedding coordinator at Occidental Resort and offered the possibility to be the Quality Manager. Currently, she is in the second year of the management studies to get my bachelor degree in the area. Miss Ka Man Hui has worked in the tourism industry for several years. "I love the tourism industry, and this was the reason why I chose

Hospitality & Tourism Management Studies at the University of Aruba. Now I'm a junior at the University of Aruba. I enjoyed this study very much and I someday I hope to be a general manager of a hotel," she describes proudly.

Another student who will be presenting is Mr. Clifton Starke, also a junior at the University of Aruba in the faculty of Hospitality and Tourism Management. According to Clifton, "the reason I enrolled in at the university was to gain knowledge on tourism management on our island, since our island's income depends mainly on tourism. I hope to one day be part of the team that moves Aruba forward in the tourism industry".

According to Dean Peterson, "our students are more than just passive pupils; they are active thinkers and tinkers of new tourism. They hold the key to any critical challenges and strategic solutions for the sustainability of tourism and tourism quality." The knowledge, skills and competencies they possess and develop are fundamental to creating a bold and brave new tourism for the island of Aruba. "They will make a difference, that I'm sure of, not by traveling the path that exists, but by creating and venturing on a new journey," Dean Peterson concludes.

The Aruba Marketing Conference will bring together business executives, marketing practitioners, and academics, and is organized by the Faculty of Tourism Studies. The conference is also particularly interesting for students of marketing and future students who are interested in pursuing a marketing study and professional career. The conference will be held on Saturday April 17 at the University of Aruba, and registration starts at 8:00am. Conference pre-registration is possible by sending an e-mail to fhtms@ua.aw Entrance is free. □

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New "At Your Service" Manager announced

Marriott Announces Promotion of Hely Regales

PALM BEACH – The Aruba Marriott Resort & Stellaris Casino proudly announces the promotion of Hely Regales to "At Your Service" Manager effective April 1, 2010. In her new position as AYS manager, Hely will be in charge of leading the "At Your Service" team.

This team plays a key role in providing excellent guest service and enabling communication for all three Marriott properties, it's guests, owners and associates.

After graduating from the Hotel School in the Netherlands with a Bachelor Degree in Hospitality Management, Hely's career commenced with Marriott in 1999 as Front Desk Supervisor at the Marriott hotel.

In 2001, Hely was promoted to Human Resources Assistant Training Manager, a position she held up to 2005. She then was promoted to Human Resources Training Manager of the three Marriott complexes. In the last four years, Hely

has been in charge of providing trainings to all Marriott associates, giving them the proper education about Marriott, self growth and management trainings, which has shown improvements in the various departments. She has also been very active in taking feedback to departments for continuous improvement.

During the past six months, Hely took the opportunity to lead the "At Your Service" (AYS) Team by means of a cross training, which eventually resulted in a promotion to this department as her contribution towards improving guest services and associate development has been tremendous. The Aruba Marriott congratulates Hely on her well deserved promotion and wishes her all the best in her new position.

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Hotel Manager Louella Brezovar together with new At Your Service (AYS) Manager Hely Regales.

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Pdvsa's refinery in Curacao to resume operations in late April

WILLEMSTAD - Venezuela-operated Isla refinery, which is run by the state-run oil company Petróleos de Venezuela (Pdvsa) in Curacao, would be ready to restart operations in late April after overcoming its power failure, a spokesman of the refinery was quoted as saying by a local newspaper.

The 320,000 bpd Isla refinery halted operations in March due to a failure in the plant run by Curacao Utilities Operating Company (CUOC), which provided electricity, water and steam to the refinery.

The spokesman of the refinery told the newspaper Extra that the company is about to purchase seven air compressors to repair the CUOC unit and the plant could start operations later this month.

Kenneth Gijsbertha, the speaker of the refinery said that the plant has sufficient inventories to meet the shipments of gasoline and diesel for domestic consumption. □



*** HUMAN HINTS ***

Decision Making 1 – Practical Applications

Decisions are a big part of every day life. Throughout the course of a day, we make hundreds of decisions. Most are small, and have little direct effect on our lives, while others seem huge. Either way, any decision we make holds the potential to change our lives in ways we cannot possibly imagine in the moment.

Decisions that seem big are challenging because we must decide our future based on information we have in this moment. Information is based on the past and present. It cannot tell us about the future. It is impossible to see the future details that a certain decision will bring, and we know that details can make all the difference.

This can seem like an inescapable paradox, but when we get to the heart of the matter, the entire situation becomes clear. First, you must be clear about what you want from your life, because your desires and goals will direct your decisions and actions. When faced with a big decision, keep your goals clear in your mind. Think about which choice will bring you closer to your goals.

When you're focused on a goal, you define the direction of your life, so any decision you make will bring you closer to your goal. The difference then becomes, which path will bring you to your goals more directly and gracefully? Which path will be more fun, challenging and rewarding for you to travel?

When we consider the future, we tend to imagine in general feelings about the big picture of what we think our life will be like. An idea about the future can be very attractive when considered from our present moment, but the tiny details of every day life affect us, so more precise consideration of the future is necessary.

Imagine your life three months, then one

year after making each choice. Focus on the details of your daily routine. What are your daily challenges? Do you thrive on overcoming them? Do you loose yourself in what you're doing? Do you connect with others? Are you contributing to your cause? Does each day bring you closer to reaching your goals? What are the possible final outcomes of each choice? What are some possible obstacles that you didn't expect, that might be a huge hindrance to you on a daily basis? Our attitude toward the daily details can make all the difference in our lives.

Tomorrow we will discover that, when you stay focused on a goal, every decision you make, no matter how important or meaningless, will bring you closer to your desires.

Until Tomorrow...

Go to www.HumanHints.com to sign up to receive this column in your email each day.

~Quentin Danziger

Quentin has over 20 years experience balancing what we refer to as the Real World, with science and spirit. He has held positions of responsibility and authority, received a Bachelor of Science in Engineering Physics from Colorado School of Mines, and has also studied many avenues of alternative thought. HumanHints is the culmination of his knowledge, experience and practice. These free daily emails detail concrete, real-world techniques to consciously create any future you choose, while in the throes of daily life created by outdated modes of thought.

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Live Music & Entertainment at Casa Tua Barcelona on Friday Night



ORANJESTAD - Enjoy your Paella and Sangria together with this fantastic live show! The downtown atmosphere is cool and relaxed with its in- and outside seating.

Our Flamenco Show will be extended this Holiday Season with the performance of Kavey Yarzagaray. This Flamenco guitar player will perform together with Angela Croes on Friday night. This is a show that shouldn't be missed.

The highlight at Casa Tua Barcelona is also the new lunch specials every weekday from Monday till Friday! **A \$9.95 lunch special; Beef tenderloin with a red wine sauce or choose the Grouper Fillet for \$11.95. Both dishes include a soft drink. Fresh Fish lovers can treat the palate to the Whole Red Snapper, served with Rice and a salad.**

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Negra which we import directly from Andalucía. As your main course you could choose our Paella, traditionally prepared on the spot by our chef! Combine this Spanish dish with our home-made sangria to complete your dinner.

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'MagicLive!...is Hip-Comedy Entertainment, Adam is the ultimate Modern Magician' - Jacque Polak, CBS-TV. Steinfeld sophisticated card-sharp street magic, mixed with grand theater illusions is a visual feast...this will be the highlight of your vacation. -Al Blanchard, mystery novelist, Boston, MA.

Steinfeld's, comedy magician, likable on-stage personality, comic interactive-wit, and amazing magic, mixed with his dream-like theatre-of-

illusions, is a sensory overload of the imagination, along with his lovely dancers...a treat for the entire family.

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Discussing Branding Beyond Boundaries on Saturday, April 17

Faculty of Tourism presents the Aruba Marketing Conference 2010

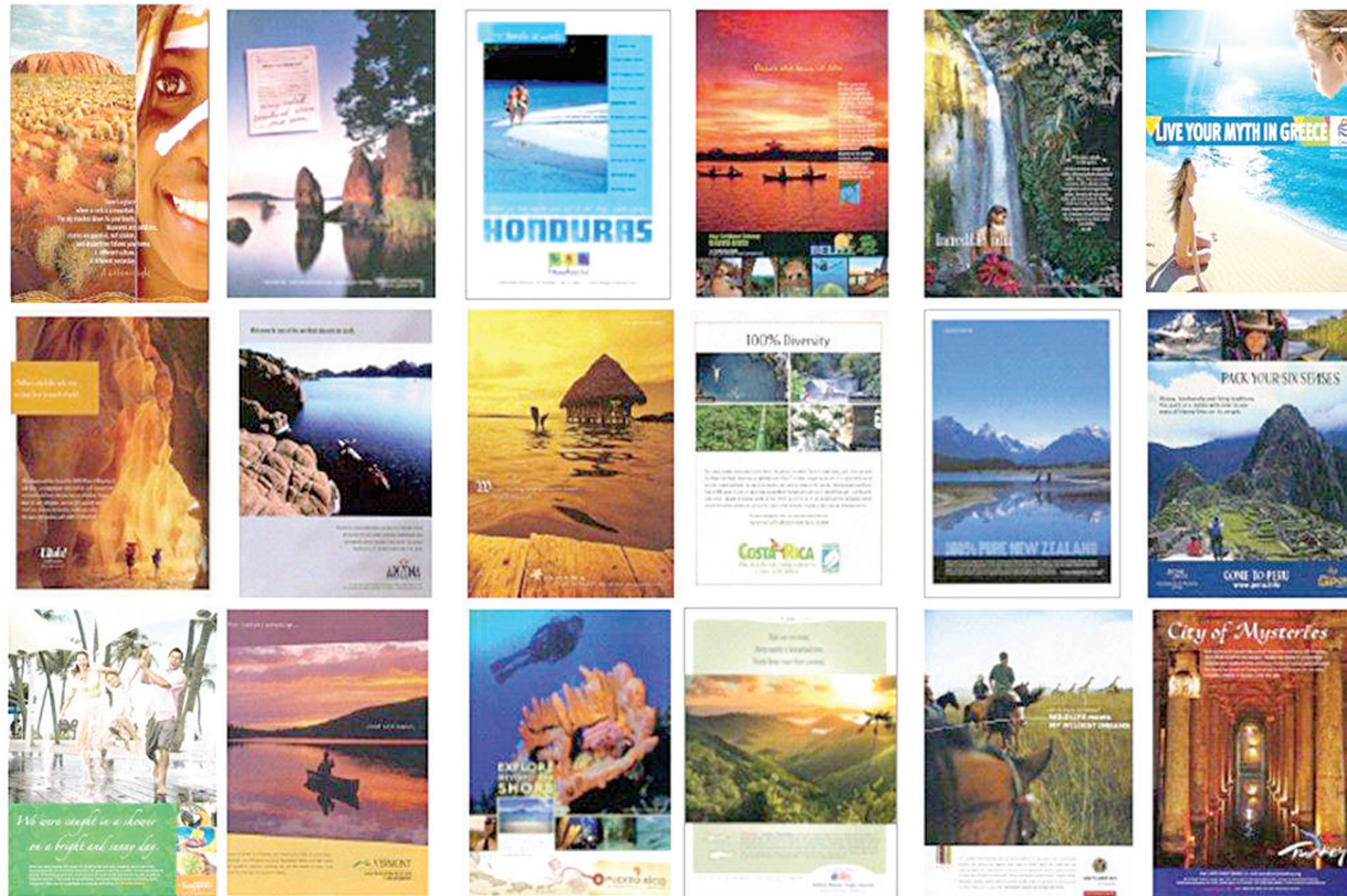


ORANJESTAD -- As companies come to grips with the realities of a 'new normal' and position themselves in a post-recession economy, executives are contemplating the value of their products and brands. These are issues that will be amply discussed during the first Aruba Marketing Conference 2010 at the Aruba University. The first Aruba Marketing Conference 2010, entitled 'Branding beyond Boundaries' sets to explore the question of branding and destination brand value, and the emergence of new brand models in the Caribbean. Based on extensive studies in the Caribbean and Aruba, international key note speakers and researchers will highlight traditional

they are struggling with their brand equity. Despite the general recognition of the importance of marketing, especially during times of crisis, studies report that marketing is out of alignment and a credibility gap exists within many departments for maintaining marketing budgets and brand enhancements. A Sloan Management Review article indicates that less than 20% of executives believe that marketing investments are necessary for long-term corporate growth, and well over 80% consider marketing investments as a mere short-term tactical measure. The Marketing Professional reports that less than 40% of marketing departments measure the impact of marketing, and more than 50% indicate that new marketing programs are rushed to the market based on a hunch without a solid understanding of the 'new normal' of emerging market trends and consumer desires. With less than 20% of executives reporting being satisfied with their brand performance, it is obvious that we need to move beyond the current boundaries of branding. Within the Caribbean, companies and national (tourism) organizations have been grappling with a range of issues, including their marketing programs and destination brands. Many destination brands seem to have drifted aimlessly in the past shouting 'price', and today appear to stand for nothing in particular. These are often symptoms of despair, fear and a lack of new vision beyond the

boundaries of existing marketing policies and practices. Consequently, the need to become more marketable and competitive is increasingly underscored throughout the Caribbean. As destinations come to realize that their traditional ('three-S, namely Sun, Sand and Sea) brand models are outdated and no longer provide added-value in the 'new normal', marketing executives are seeking new strategies beyond the boundaries of existing brand models. The conference will bring together business

executives, marketing practitioners, and academics, organized by the Faculty of Tourism Studies and chaired by Dr. Ryan R. Peterson. The conference is also particularly interesting for students of marketing and future students who are interested in pursuing a marketing study and professional career. The conference will be held on Saturday April 17 at the University of Aruba, and registration starts at 8:00am. Conference pre-registration is possible by sending an e-mail to fhtms@ua.aw. Entrance is free.



International Brand and Media Expert to Key Note the Aruba Marketing Conference

Dr. Marcella Daye explores effective media and internet branding

On April 17 at the University of Aruba

ORANJESTAD -- The Caribbean has been widely recognized as an international brand that positively promotes individual destinations in the region. However, most Caribbean destinations tend to share similar product holiday attributes. In this regard, competitive marketing positioning is critical for destinations within the same geographic region to present distinguishable physical and symbolic features to set

their individual destinations apart from competitors. But the proliferation of similar vacation experiences and stereotypical holiday packages pose challenges for destinations building distinct brand identities and in effectively communicating these values to consumers. These and other brand challenges will be discussed at the forthcoming Aruba Marketing Conference on "Branding beyond Boundaries" on April 17 at



the University of Aruba. Dr. Marcella Daye, an international expert on branding, will examine the current online branding practices of tourism destinations focusing on how brand messages are communicated. Destination logos, slogans and messages of the destinations of the Caribbean, as presented on the homepages of the official tourism websites have been analyzed. Using quantitative and qualitative content analysis, this presentation assesses the level of functional versus symbolic branding approaches used so as to identify how these images have been constructed to communicate the unique traits of these destinations. This presentation therefore seeks to contribute to the understanding of country brand image management, by providing insights on strategies for developing effective messages for destination branding.

Dr. Marcella Daye is a professor in Tourism and manager for the MBA International Tourism at Coventry University in the United Kingdom. She holds a Masters with distinction and a Ph.D in Tourism from the University of Surrey, a postgraduate diploma in Mass Communications, and an undergraduate degree from the University of the West Indies. Dr. Daye began her career as a radio journalist and then worked as a tourism practitioner for ten years in public relations and marketing at the Jamaica Tourist Board. She was also tourism consultant for the National Strategy on Biodiversity in Jamaica, which was commissioned by the UNDP. Dr. has published and presented conference papers in her main research interests of destination image and branding, consumer behavior in tourism, and the relationship between tourism and the media. □

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DP: Not much autonomy after SLAs and Kingdom Measures

PHILIPSBURG--St. Maarten, saddled with General Kingdom Resolutions and Service Level Agreements (SLAs), will not have much autonomy when it becomes a country within the Kingdom, opposition Democratic Party (DP) said in Wednesday's Island Council meeting.

"What is left of Country St. Maarten when you take away the SLAs and the general measures [areas to be overseen by the Kingdom Government]? Tell the people what is left, because very, very few matters will be the responsibility of St. Maarten," DP leader Island Councilwoman Sarah Wescot-Williams said.

The date for country status October 10 "might bring country on paper, but on autonomy, we'll be further back than we are now," she added.

St. Maarten will be worse off than it is in the current Netherlands Antilles constellation, because from the "picture that is emerging, this is Plan B coming in sort of a back door," she continued.

Plan B was a recommendation by the Dutch Government that would have given St. Maarten a status between country and public entity of the Netherlands. The plan was vehemently objected to by all 11 Island Council members.

DP had requested a meeting to focus on Government's position on entering into SLAs for services St. Maarten would not be able to perform when country status was attained October 10. The meeting was adjourned after DP members, Island Councilmen George Pantophlet (NA) and Louie Laveist (independent) spoke, to give Government, only represented by Commissioners Theo Heyliger and Frans Richardson, time to prepare answers to questions posed.

The debate will resume Thursday, April 22, at 3:00pm, when answers are to be given and a vote will take place on a second motion of no confidence tabled by DP against Finance Commissioner Xavier Blackman (see related story).

Not what was voted for

DP Island Councilman Leroy de Weever said Government was inviting higher supervision to St. Maarten by

continuing to put the running of the island into the hands of other, non-elected people.

"If 10-10-10 means giving up more autonomy, then I say keep things the way they are, because we have an Island Council and a Central Committee," De Weever said, adding that the way things were going was definitely not what the people had voted for in the June 2000 referendum.

Similarly, Councilman Louie Laveist declared that what St. Maarten was getting was not what was voted for. "If we had a referendum tomorrow, I would not vote for country status but independence."

Laveist, a passionate promoter of country status, said he would not sit on the sidelines and have country status rammed down the throats of the people unless it was what was voted for and nothing less.

Info needed Wescot-Williams said during the meeting that the National Alliance (NA)-led government appeared to view SLAs as a panacea or cure-all for its inability to plan.

She asked Government to give an update on how it had been complying with measures in Kingdom agreements that outlined what St. Maarten needed to have in place to become a country, such as relevant legislation, its constitution and a workable government structure.

Wescot-Williams also wanted to know how the planned SLAs in areas including aviation, telecommunication and public health jived with the criteria St. Maarten must live up to when it became a country.

Commenting on statements from Transportation and Telecommunication Minister Patrick Illidge (NA) that SLAs would be needed in several areas, the DP leader asked what information Illidge had been privy to that had not been sharing with the Island Council.

An entire dossier with legislation, budget, structure and other information on the takeover of telecommunications had been prepared under the former DP government and submitted to the Central Government, but this had been sidelined by former Telecommunications Minister Adriaens, Wescot-Williams recalled.

Second DP no-confidence motion against Blackman

~ Richards requests withdrawal of motion ~

PHILIPSBURG -- Finance Commissioner Xavier Blackman faces a second motion of no confidence tabled by opposition Democratic Party (DP) in just under a month. The motion again stems from the 2010 budget, but this time has to do particularly with the Committee for Financial Supervision CFT labelling the 2010 budget unbalanced. DP Island Councilman Leroy de Weever presented the motion during Wednesday's Island Council meeting. However, Island Council Chairman Lt. Governor Franklyn Richards informed DP in a letter after the meeting was adjourned Wednesday afternoon that the motion was not applicable, and requested that the party pull it back. Richards' grounds for making this request were based on Article 31, Section 1, which only allows motions related the meeting topic to be tabled, and in this case the meeting was about Government's position on Service Level Agreements (SLAs). The council would have voted on Blackman's removal on Thursday, April 22, when the meeting resumed. The first motion of no confidence was tabled by DP in March during the debate to approve the 2010 budget. This motion failed by a seven to four margin. Blackman as a "professional" commissioner is not a member of the Island Council.

De Weever told the council that the motion was a follow-up to the "vote of no confidence levelled" at Blackman by leader of government Commissioner William Marlin in the press Wednesday. Marlin, after learning on Tuesday that CFT had labelled the budget unbalanced because projected additional tax revenues were not substantiated, quickly sought help from a three-man team of experts that helps Curaçao with its budget woes.

De Weever said Marlin had to "go to the same Curaçao we are trying to get away from" to get help with the budget that DP had sternly pointed out was not balanced, because like CFT said, the extra income's source was not substantiated. With this second verdict

from CFT on the budget, de Weever said "any honourable commissioner" would step down to save St. Maarten's "pride and future" instead of inviting a "bunch of Dutchmen to look over us." The motion outlines, among other things, that Blackman has repeatedly implied comprehension and even endorsement of CFT about the way the budget was prepared, and that he failed to present a budget that meets the criteria of the Kingdom Resolution on Temporary Financial Supervision. CFT has given Government 14 days, as of April 13, to comply with the rule and norms set out in the General Measure, or it faces being reported to the Kingdom Council of Ministers for non-compliance.

"The consequences of this reporting by CFT can be disastrous for St. Maarten and its quest for country status; St. Maarten can ill afford any negative publicity and surely none that tarnishes the image of Government as a reliable partner," de Weever read.

The Island Council representing the people of St. Maarten "cannot sit idly by while a power play" ensues between Blackman and CFT, according to the motion. DP Island Councilwoman Maria Buncamper-Molanus, also speaking on the budget, said, "We told you so. We told you [Government-Ed.] the budget was not balanced. She added that CFT's response was yet another slap in the face of the administration, but one that could jeopardise the island's future. DP Island Councilman Roy Marlin questioned why Blackman was not present at the meeting or on the island when yet another budget crisis was looming. "The Commissioner of Finance is off on another happy-go-lucky trip, this time to Uruguay, while the Sword of Damocles hangs over our heads." Councilman Marlin said that Blackman, aware that CFT was still to respond to the budget, should have stayed home or should have been in close contact with CFT to know what was happening. "This leads me to ask if there is any allegiance to this country." □



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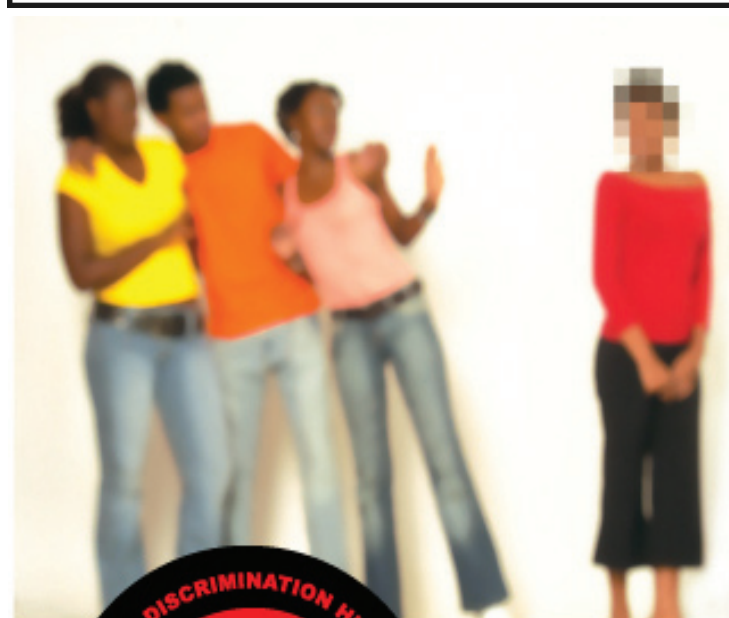
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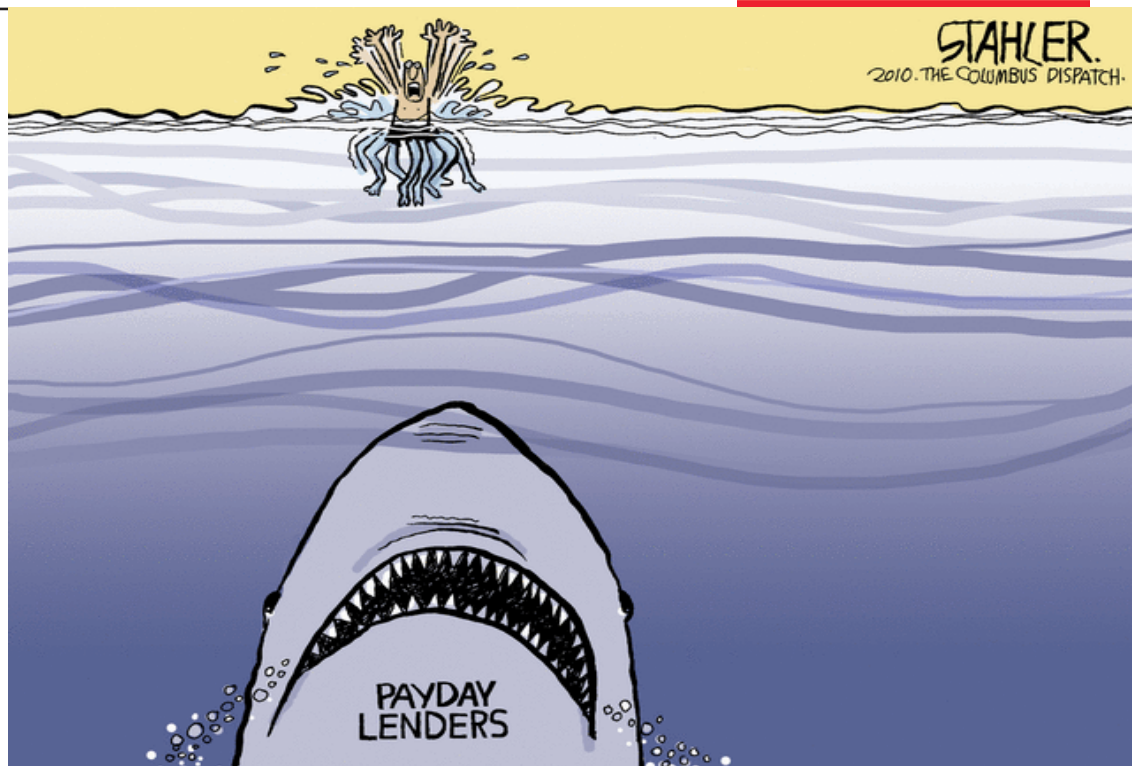
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Obama Drops Into Florida's Political Frenzy

Kyle Trygstad & Mike Memoli

President Obama makes his fourth visit to Florida, one of only a half dozen states outside the Beltway he's visited that many times since entering the White House. He'll find a Sunshine State again rich with political intrigue, where major developments in the gubernatorial, Senate and Congressional races just this week point to an election cycle as busy as any in recent memory. Obama's visit - to deliver an address on his space policy and to raise money for the Democratic National Committee - of course points to his own political interest in the state. Not since 1976 had a Democratic presidential nominee won 51 percent of the vote in Florida, as Obama did two years ago. But recent polling shows that his standing has slipped there as in many battlegrounds from 2008, something that could affect the entire Democratic ticket this fall.

Democrats had a voter registration advantage of 660,000 in 2008, after the party added 500,000 voters to its rolls between the 2006 and 2008 elections. Republican registration rose by 130,000. However, after a successful election year that also included picking up two Republican House seats, the party has no apparent edge in this year's midterm elections.

"I think it's lining up to be a pretty Republican year in Florida," said Central Florida University political scientist Aubrey Jewett, co-author of the book Politics in Florida.

"Florida-specific polls show Obama's approval rating is about where it is around the country. And the average Floridian isn't happy with the health care bill."

Although Republicans are involved in one of the most heated Senate primaries in the country, both Gov. Charlie Crist and Marco Rubio regularly lead likely Democratic nominee, Rep. Kendrick Meek, in early general election polling.

And yet that Senate race could be at a critical point, with many increasingly convinced Crist will decide to forego the Republican primary he appears unable to win and instead run as an

independent. A Quinnipiac survey released this morning found Rubio up 23 points in the primary, while Crist held a small lead as an independent in a three-way general election race.

Crist has until month's end to make that move, but many feel a more immediate decision about whether to sign or veto an education bill backed by most state Republicans will signal his intentions. In the race for governor, several recent polls found Attorney Gen. Bill McCollum (R) with double-digit leads over state Chief Financial Officer Alex Sink (D). Unlike Sink - who's been seen for years as a rising star in the Democratic Party - before his successful run for attorney general four years ago, many believed McCollum's political career was over after 20 years in the House and two failed Senate bids.

But now his momentum appears to be threatened with the sudden entrance of Republican Rick Scott, a wealthy conservative activist who led a movement against national health care legislation.

"While they fight over who is the biggest conservative, Alex Sink will continue to share her vision for the future and her business plan for creating Florida jobs," said Emily DeRose, spokesperson for the Democratic Governors Association.

As the first congressional election since the health care vote in Congress, Democrats are hoping their special election victory Tuesday in the 19th District is a positive omen for the future. They say the senior-heavy district proves that all-important bloc of the electorate is on-board with the new law. Whether true or not, Rep.-elect Ted Deutch (D) had the sizeable advantages of running in a heavily Democratic district and a large fundraising edge over his Republican opponent.

The two Orlando-area Republican seats Democrats picked up in 2008 appear to be the party's most vulnerable this year, though Republicans also have their eyes on Rep. Ron Klein's 22nd District seat.

In the 8th District, Rep. Alan Grayson has made a national name for himself after using fiery language both in the media and on the House floor during the health care debate. It certainly attracted attention, as well as Republican challengers, though a few top GOP recruits opted against running.

One reason could be Grayson's fundraising abilities. He's not only one of the most personally wealthy members of Congress, he's shown the ability to attract dollars from around the country. Grayson raised more than \$800,000 in both the last three months of 2009 and the first three of 2010.

Grayson could face businessman Bruce O'Donoghue, state Rep. Kurt Kelly or attorney Todd Long. Jewett notes that this could be one of the most expensive races in the country.

"He probably has been too outspoken and too outrageous for his own good," said Jewett. "But that district has moved Democratic since its creation in 2002."

Rep. Suzanne Kosmas is another freshman incumbent the national GOP is targeting. With the help of former Rep. Tom Feeney's connection to disgraced lobbyist Jack Abramoff, Kosmas cruised to victory in the 24th District by a 57-41 percent margin.

Among the many Republicans looking to knock Kosmas out this year are State Rep. Sandy Adams, Winter Park City Commissioner Karen Diebel and Craig Miller, the former CEO of the Ruth's Chris restaurant chain. Kosmas is one of many vulnerable Democrats around the country who will face scrutiny over their health care vote. Unlike Grayson's, John McCain won this district with 51 percent.

Florida is ripe with intrigue in other districts as well. Rep. Mario Diaz-Balart (R) opted to vacate his 25th District and run in the neighboring 21st, a slightly more Republican seat where his brother Lincoln is retiring. 2008 nominee Joe Garcia is back to run for the open seat after losing to Mario Diaz-Balart by just 6 points. □

Primarias para elección legislativa agitan a Venezuela

CARACAS (Reuters) - En la campaña de las primarias para la elección legislativa de septiembre en Venezuela el presidente Hugo Chávez definió los bandos que se enfrentan: él, que busca resolver los problemas del país, contra mentirosos, egoístas y delincuentes opositores que defienden al “imperio”.

El militar retirado, triunfador en una docena de elecciones y derrotado sólo en una, agita la política local con un planteamiento de malos contra buenos que le ha rendido frutos en el pasado, pese a que vive uno de los mayores bajones de popularidad de sus 11 años de Gobierno.

Analistas prevén que el mandatario gane, pero durante la campaña el país se sumirá en la discordia.

“Nosotros representamos lo nuevo, la patria, ellos son la antipatria. Nosotros el amor, ellos el egoísmo. Nosotros los valores humanos, la igualdad (...) ellos lo inhumano, ellos la ambición”, dijo Chávez días atrás en una reunión ministerial televisada en la que ordenó trabajar con eficiencia.

Además comentó que la inseguridad -que sondeos encuentran como el problema más grave por los muertos



magen de archivo del presidente de Venezuela, Hugo Chávez, durante su programa semanal ‘Aló Presidente’, en el Palacio Miraflores, Caracas. Abr 11 2010. REUTERS/Miraflores Palace/Handout

que deja diariamente- decaerá en dos años al consolidarse la Policía Nacional; que resolverá el déficit eléctrico que genera apagones en todo el país y que construirá viviendas.

Por su parte, la pelea interna de la opositora Mesa de Unidad Democrática (MUD) resuena en medios de comunicación nacionales y es previsible que se prolongue más allá de la presentación de sus candidatos

definitivos, en medio de ataques de Chávez quien los fustiga por su método para seleccionarlos.

El Gobierno permitirá que unas 3.500 personas participen en primarias por 110 cargos

uninominales y reserva 55 puestos para acuerdos, mientras en la oposición competirán unos 22 cargos y los restantes se definirán mediante pactos entre sonoros enfrentamientos.

ASUNTO DE DINERO

Según Ramón José Medina, que lidera la comisión técnica para las primarias de la MUD, las diferencias dentro de la oposición se derivan de su pluralidad y la falta de dinero.

“Están participando en la Mesa de Unidad más de 30 organizaciones políticas y sociales. Ponerlas de acuerdo dentro de un proceso democrático no resulta tan fácil como pasa en un partido monolítico donde sólo una palabra basta”, dijo Medina a Reuters refiriendo el férreo control de Chávez sobre el oficialista Partido Socialista Unido de Venezuela (PSUV). Las primarias de la oposición costarán unos 5 millones de bolívares (más de 1 millón de dólares al tipo de cambio para bienes no esenciales). Los partidos financiarán un 60 por ciento y el resto los propios candidatos. Según Medina, en los circuitos más costosos se pagará hasta 17.000 bolívares. Pero Chávez afirma que la Mesa “vende” los cupos. □

Rusia cambia enfoque de cooperación a Bolivia

LA PAZ (Reuters) - Rusia espera concretar a fin de mes un paquete de ayuda a Bolivia que incluirá cientos de millones de dólares para compras militares y proyectos de desarrollo, en un cambio de su política tradicional hacia Latinoamérica, dijo el embajador de Moscú en La Paz.

Los programas, cuyo componente militar consistiría en armamento básico y equipamiento logístico defensivo, serán definidos en un encuentro binacional en Moscú, dijo a Reuters en una entrevista el embajador ruso Leonid Golubev.

“Puedo confirmar que estamos renovando nuestra presencia en Latinoamérica, es una parte de nuestra política exterior”, afirmó el jueves en una entrevista con Reuters el diplomático, al vincular la ayuda a Bolivia con la cooperación rusa a otros países de la región, como Venezuela, Cuba o Argentina.

La declaración se produce una semana después de que sendas delegaciones de alto nivel de Brasil y Venezuela ofrecieran asesoramiento y financiamiento para ambiciosos proyectos industriales y de infraestructura del Gobierno izquierdista de Evo Morales. □

Ministro Energía Venezuela busca inversiones de EEUU

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - El ministro de Energía de Venezuela, Rafael Ramírez, abrió los brazos a la inversión de petroleras estadounidenses para desarrollar las vastas reservas de crudo de su país, mientras asistía en Washington a una reunión sobre el sector por primera vez en seis años.

Ramírez dijo que Venezuela está suscribiendo acuerdos con compañías de Rusia, China, Europa y Japón para explotar sus yacimientos y animó a las compañías de Estados Unidos a unirse al plan de desarrollo de la Faja del Orinoco, donde yacen unas de las mayores reservas mundiales de hidrocarburos.

“Estados Unidos no puede dejar pasar esta oportunidad”, dijo a periodistas al margen de una conferencia de países occidentales para discutir cuestiones de energía y cambio climático.

Las relaciones entre Washington y Caracas han estado crispadas desde hace mucho

tiempo, y tocaron uno de sus puntos más bajos cuando el presidente Hugo Chávez llamó “diablo” al mandatario estadounidense de entonces, George W. Bush, en la Asamblea General de Naciones Unidas.

Ramírez dijo que las petroleras extranjeras que quieran hacer negocios en Venezuela deben tener “respeto” por las leyes y la política energética del país.

Venezuela tiene reservas probadas estimadas de 99.400 millones de barriles, siendo el octavo exportador mundial de petróleo y el cuarto proveedor externo del mercado estadounidense.

Según cifras oficiales, Venezuela bombeó un promedio de 3,04 millones de barriles por día (bpd) en el 2009, aunque la Administración de Información de Energía estadounidense la ubicó en 2,2 millones de bpd, lo que supone una caída de 190.000 bpd respecto al año previo. □

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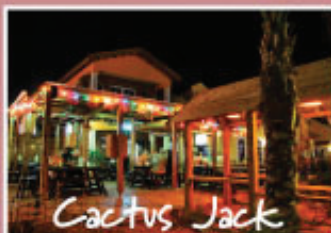


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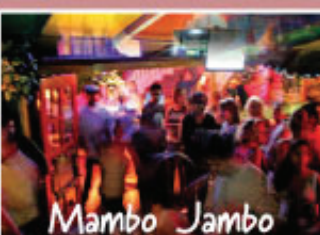
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